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SUMMARY OF NEWS.

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Politics of Europe.

We have already expressed our desire that the contents of a work so valuable as the *EDINBURGH REVIEW*, should be made as accessible as possible to the Indian public; and with that view, we have already given two excellent articles from the last Number. To-day we insert a third, on the Politics of Switzerland, which has been much applauded in England. It will be more particularly interesting to our Military readers, but the grand and comprehensive views it develops of the general political system of Europe, deserve the attention of the philosopher and philanthropist, and must interest and delight readers of every rank and profession.

The New Marriage Act.—On Sunday (1st Sept.) the New Marriage Act, with its odious train of embarrassments and indignities, came into operation; and, if the members of Parliament who supported the measure had been present at the scenes which we and hundreds besides were compelled to witness in this city only, we are sure, that every religious—every moral man—every man of sense among them would have blushed for himself as we did for them.—Whilst the bells were announcing the solemn hour of prayer, and during the time of divine service, a number of disorderly fellows were running about from church to church, reading the names of those whose poverty compels them to take the humblest method of entering into that state which, as our liturgy beautifully expresses it, “signifies the mystical union between Christ and his church.” To hear the indecent ribaldry, the dirty puns, the loud laughter, which outraged the sanctity of the sabbath, was indeed as deplorable as it was demoralizing; but our unpleasant task is but half finished—could it have been believed, that the legislature who voted a million of money to build churches, would make a law by which the practice we have been describing should be engendered in the sacred edifices which their hands have raised? Yet so it must be, while this law remains unrepealed; for not only are the names to be publicly read by the Minister, and posted against the church door, but to be affixed in a conspicuous place within the church. In conformity with this enactment, a paper was stuck against one of the columns which support the organ loft in cathedral; and whilst the Bishop was engaged in the most important function of the episcopal office—that of ordaining persons to the christian ministry—our attention was directed to the outer choir by the partially constrained but yet audible laughter of three or four females who were reading the paper in question. We trust that a law which forces such scenes upon us will not be suffered to disgrace our statute-book after the next session of Parliament.—*Exeter Gazette.*

Agreeably to the directions of the New Act, a display of the names, callings, and abodes of cooing swains and blushing nymphs, candidates for admission at the Hymeneal altar, took place on Sunday last against our church doors, and “lots of people” attended to discover “who is who.” On the following day, the little boys, on their way to school, were aping the parson in all directions: “I publish the banns of marriage between — and —,” giving us the names as they stood upon the board. *Plymouth Gazette.*

New Marriage Act.—On Sunday last (8th Sept.) the banns of marriage of one solitary couple only were published in our church, a circumstance quite novel in this season of the year, having often before known as many as 20 and even 30 couple

asked on a Sunday. Such are the dreadful consequences resulting from the New Marriage Act—an Act which has struck more terror into the hearts of his Majesty’s loving subjects, than any Bill passed by Parliament for a number of years.—*Maidstone Journal.*

Cut Direct.—At a fashionable route lately given in Edinburgh, there appeared a certain young coxcomb, of the name of R—, almost proverbial for self-conceit and emptiness; and who was noticed during the evening to haunt, as it were, a young Lady (Miss M—), who, on the other hand, took every opportunity to get rid of such an impertinent beau. Upon the breaking up of the party, Mr. R—, buttoning his coat, made up to his supposed admirer, and, accompanied by one of his best bows, asked the following civil question:—“Pray, Ma’am, may I have the pleasure of seeing you home?” Miss M—, looking at him, responded with the greatest *sang froid*, “Pray, Sir, may I have the pleasure of asking the nursery maid to put you to bed?” Mr. R—, quite crest fallen at this unexpected “cut direct,” turned on his heel, and walked out of the room, without uttering a syllable.—*Edinburgh Observer.*

Borough Interest.—The late Lord Sandwich having the privilege of appointing a chorister in Trinity College, Cambridge, sent them one, not only ignorant of music, but who croaked like an old raven, because he had a vote for Huntingdon. This gave rise to the following epigram:—

A singing man, and cannot sing
From whence arose your patron’s bounty?
Give us a song!—“Excuse me, Sir,
My voice is in another county.”

Preston Guild, Monday, Sept. 9.—The ascent of Mr. Livingston in a balloon took place this day from Wood-cock’s yard, Friar’s-gate, into which persons were admitted on paying 6s. each. There was a numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, amongst whom we noticed several personages of rank. The ascent was to have taken place at 11 o’clock, but in consequence of the want of gas, with which the balloon was inflated, it did not take place till three. The firing of cannon throughout the day announced the several stages of filling the balloon, attaching the car, ascent of the pilot, and presentation of the banners. At three o’clock, all preparations having been finished, and the different instruments, provisions, &c., securely stowed, the Countess of Derby and the Mayoress presented the banners. The ropes were then cut, and the intrepid aeronaut standing in the car, the balloon rose in a slow and majestic manner amidst the cheers of the surrounding spectators, who crowded all the adjacent streets, and covered the eminences and roofs of houses which commanded a view of the interesting exhibition. The wind at the time blew strongly from the west, and of course the balloon took an easterly direction, inclining a little to the north. Its progress was slow, considering the strength of the wind; but it soon obtained an elevated situation, and was in view nearly a quarter of an hour, when it disappeared in a dense cloud, having previously passed through two smaller ones. Two post-chaises were despatched at an early hour for the purpose of watching the progress of the balloon.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Lisburne, Lord Viscount Vaughan, and family, after an absence of six years in France, are arrived at Crosswood-park, Cardiganshire, where they purpose in future to reside. Their Lordships have directed their agents to reduce the rents 20 per cent.—*Hereford Journal.*

Politics of Switzerland.

FROM THE LAST NUMBER OF THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

1. *La Suisse dans l'Intérêt de l'Europe.* Geneva, 1821.—2. *Lettre à l'Auteur de La Suisse dans l'Intérêt de l'Europe.* Basle, 1821.—3. *Réplique.* &c. Geneva, 1822.

The publications before us, have created a great sensation in Switzerland, and even in France, where the first and most important of them has been suppressed by the Censors. It has been attributed to General Jomini, but we believe quite incorrectly—especially since we find that, in a work since published by him, he has praised it exceedingly.

It appears that General Sebastiani, in his place in the Chamber of Deputies, did, in the course of last year, lay it down, as an axiom received by all men versed in military science, that, in the event of a serious war with Germany, France must, of necessity, take military possession of Switzerland. * *Afin de se rendre maîtresse des versans du Rhin et du Danube, et de couvrir ses frontières en menaçant celles de l'ennemi.*

Such a declaration was well calculated to excite both alarm and animadversion among the Swiss; and it has given rise to the discussions now before us, upon the resources, political and military, of the Helvetic States, as compared with the offensive means of France and Austria against them; in which the justice, policy, and propriety in a military point of view, of such a warlike occupation, are all closely and warmly contested. This discussion must be interesting to every nation in Europe, and, we trust, will attract the attention of all statesmen who look beyond the intrigues of the day, and have an honest desire to rest their pretensions to fame upon the solid foundation of general good, and a spirit something more than national.

Poor and sterile as Switzerland is, compared with the great States to the east and north of her, she has always held a prominent place in the history of Europe, at least since the days of Cæsar; and, to the soldier, the politician, and the man of science, she must always present an ample field of instruction and pleasure. To the first, indeed, she is invaluable; offering, from her central situation, and her peculiarly strong features, a rare combination for the study of war, both upon the grand scale of territorial and strategical operations, and the not less interesting or difficult part which appertains to tactics and partisan activity.

The indecision of her modern politics, has formed a strange contrast with the bravery and independent temper of her people. It has been observed by some one, that elevated situations give elevated sentiments; if it were so, the unrivalled grandeur of her scenery should have long ago produced a policy as lofty and as immovable as the mountains which overspread her. But it is not yet, we trust, too late; and it well becomes her patriotic spirits to consider of the best means to be adopted for placing their country in such an independent situation among the nations of Europe, as will enable her to maintain a liberal and suitable policy. The task, we conceive, would not be a hard one. Untainted by the degrading vices which attend upon the luxurious wants of richer countries, the population of Switzerland presents that mixture of knowledge, simplicity, and national enthusiasm, which promises most success to the labours of a generous and high minded statesman. Every thing that is dignified and noble, should characterize the government of this beautiful and stupendous country,—this citadel of Europe, which seems marked by the hand of nature as the place, of all others, where simplicity of manners, and integrity in politics, might be securely lodged, guarded from internal corruption by its poverty, and safe from external violence by its strength.

Surely it is worth the attention of enlightened politicians of all countries, to ascertain the reason why Switzerland, with so much aptness of situation, and with a population at once robust, brave, and intelligent, should never have interposed to check the ambition and violence of her neighbours—never have striven to appease those quarrels which, arising among surrounding nations, have so often deluged themselves and her with blood?—why she is of so much importance in war, and so little respected in peace?—why her soldiers are so much sought after by those who make no scruple of treating the nation itself with contempt? Italy, Germany and France, warring and wasted by turns, have ever found in her a subject of intrigue,—sometimes an interested ally, always a recruiting station, but never a mediator. Has this arisen from her weakness? Certainly not; her natural strength must be great, or she would long ago have formed an integral part of some of the powerful nations which surround her. There must, then, be some error in the form or policy of her government, by which the interests of the nation and the rights of humanity, have been sacrificed to individual and corporate incapacity or corruption. As French or Austrian force, or French or Austrian gold predominated, so has Switzerland oscillated like a pendulum, until ‘point d’argent, point de Suisse,’ has become proverbial—a stinging expression, which could never have been earned

by the homely, honest inhabitants of the mountains, but which has been justly used to characterize the illiberal and selfish policy of the cantonal and federal governments. The truth is, that the liberty conquered from the House of Hapsburgh has been most unequally distributed. Of right it was the glorious patrimony of all; but in fact it has become the property of some privileged classes, who have unjustly detained it from other portions of the confederation; and the heart-burnings and disputes occasioned by such a state of things, has nearly destroyed the tenure by which it is enjoyed at all. Thus, the government of Berne, aristocratical and overbearing, attempted to domineer over the Pays de Vaud, until the inhabitants of that country appealed, in 1796, to the French against their injustice. These last readily undertook, as inheritors of the rights of the Dukes of Savoy, to arrange the affair; French troops poured in, and bloodshed and wretchedness followed their interference.

The Grisons long refused to grant to the prayers and remonstrances of the inhabitants of the Valteline, the Bormio and the Chiavenna; a community of political and civil rights; and, when an opportunity offered, the latter willingly placed themselves under the rule of the Cisalpine Republic established by Buonaparte. And thus it again appeared, that the natural course of injustice is to beget hatred, division, weakness, and loss of character. A generous and simple policy is the only one suited to a generous and simple people. Proud of their honesty and poverty, the statesmen of Switzerland should cast far from them the pitifulness of intrigue, and the meanness of avarice. The country of William Tell was not treed by him to become a ball for kings to kick at; nor were his countrymen destined by nature to become the guards of every rich and sullen despot, who trembled at the just hatred of his subjects.

It is with sincere pleasure that we discover, in the publications before us, the dawnings of a better spirit; and it should be the object of all Swiss patriots to spur it into action. Upon the moral character of a nation, depends its permanent greatness; and they should consider what an enormity it is to fight the battles of others, without any interest but that of their pay. To sell the blood of its subjects for sordid gain,—to hire out the men whose strength and courage ought to be the safeguard of their own country,—is a baseness degrading to actual despotism. But in a free nation it is disgusting; and when its object is to assist tyrants in enjoining the enlightened spirit of the age to their Gothic pretensions, it becomes a wickedness too detestable to admit of a moment's argument, and gives but little hope that any permanent system of enlarged policy can be pursued by a people among whom such a practice prevails.

To reform themselves in these particulars, ought to be the first step of the Swiss, if they wish to have the force of public opinion with them in the praiseworthy effort which they seem disposed to make for assuming the high and honourable situation of an independent and liberal people. If surrounding nations, obstinate to remember griefs, will not accept of this reformation as a guarantee of the purity of their determinations, it will be time enough to teach them moderation when the moment of aggression upon their part arrives. Until it does arrive, mildness of language, a conciliatory spirit, and internal preparation, will be far more efficacious than any sophistical arguments to palliate or defend what was really wrong in the conduct of the Swiss Government—(we allude to the passage of the Allies). It would be far more becoming, also, at a time when they wish to impress a general belief in the purity of their future intentions; but the world is no longer to be daunted by such flimsy observations as occur in the work before us, about the members of the Holy Alliance and their obsequious kinglets.

In speaking thus warmly and openly, we are well persuaded that we shall give no offence to any enlightened Swiss Patriot. We believe that there are in that country, many men as anxious as we can be, that such severe but wholesome truths should be repeated, until they become engraven upon the hearts of their countrymen; and we know there are multitudes who feel, that the soil which gave birth to the heroes of Morat and Morgarten may be independent and respected, even though the Tuilleries should be guarded by natural-born Frenchmen.

The neutrality of Switzerland has been declared inviolable by the great Powers. Will it be respected?—or is this to be only another specimen of the facility with which great powers promise what they never mean to perform. Such are the questions which occupy the minds of all-thinking Swiss, who reflect upon the situation of their country. The answer, however, involves no mystery. What, do the great powers think their interest real or imaginary?—that they will pursue with a warmth and pertinacity unmitigated by any attention to justice or humanity. The proof of this is broad, and visible upon the map of Europe. Nevertheless it is very probable, that Austria, at this moment, sincerely desires that the neutrality of Switzerland may be preserved inviolate. The whole of Italy is in her grasp from Venice to Genoa, from Milan to Girgente in Sicily. She means to keep it; and therefore she can have no desire to see the French find an opening through Switzerland, to attack her at the most important point of her communications with the

Hereditary States. The stricter the neutrality of Switzerland, the more solemnly that neutrality shall be declared, the firmer her possession of Italy becomes. This is her share of the Holy Alliance; and Hanover and Turkey may, for aught we know, be the price at which Russia and Prussia lend their aid to protect the sacred rights of Helvetia.

France then, whose march sits upon a tottering throne, is the country to be looked to as most dangerous; and this, accordingly, is the view the author 'de La Suisse dans l'Interet de l'Europe' takes of the subject, directing all the weight of his arguments against France, for which the declaration of General Sebastiani affords him a fair pretext. But the wheel of fortune continues to turn—affairs may change—Europe is any thing but settled—the deluge of the French Revolution has subsided—the warm mud has teemed with life, and produced its monsters; but the fermentation still continues. Good seed has been sown in the new soil; and the world, with reason, expects a rich and grateful harvest. Spain and Portugal have already reaped theirs; but Greece and Italy! are they to be forgotten? Can we talk or think of freedom, and be silent about *them*,—the mother and the daughters? Have they not struggled, and fought, and bled in the glorious cause? and shall we regard them with silent indifference, because the Turkish scimitar flashes in the eyes of the one, and the dull Austrian blight has passed over the fair face of the other? The probability and the propriety of these two countries becoming free and independent, should be taken into any calculation, having for its object a lasting and honorable neutrality for Switzerland; without that, all conclusions upon the subject are likely to be vain and chimerical.

France, again, should be considered under two aspects,—France under the sway of the Bourbons, and France once more free herself, and offering freedom to others. We repeat, that it is by an enlarged and liberal policy alone, that the Swiss Confederation can expect to gain the support of enlightened politicians, and the good opinion of other nations. And here it is that we differ from the author 'de La Suisse,' &c., who has committed the great error of considering Italy as of right and irrevocably belonging to Austria; whereas we consider her as of right belonging only to her own population. He professes to enter into a didactic critical examination of the policy, justice, and military propriety of General Sebastiani's project; and, after some common place observations, relative to the folly of ambition, and to the disagreement between the moral and geographical boundaries of nations, he very simply observes, that the Congress of Vienna should have endeavoured to correct them. 'Autant que le respect pour l'indépendance, et pour la justice, pouvait le comporter.' What follows is such an odd mixture of apology for, and censure upon, the Allies, for not having done so, that we feel a disposition to give it entire.

'On a déjà fait observer, que jamais occasion plus favorable ne s'était présentée pour associer solidement un système pacifique; mais c'eût été trop attendre du désintéressement des nations et de la politique transcendante de leurs chefs, que de supposer, dans cette mémorable réunion de 1815, l'oubli des invasions, des spoliations, des injustices, des humiliations, dont tous avaient eu à souffrir et l'adoption de cette politique large et désintéressée, dont les convenances de la famille européenne, réclamaient l'application. Lorsqu'on juge la conduite des personnages influents dans les grandes transactions politiques, on ne doit pas perdre de vue, que les relations naturelles des peuples entre eux, sont hostiles; que l'art de contondre leurs intérêts est un des plus beaux problèmes de la civilisation, et qu'il n'est peut-être pas donné aux hommes de le résoudre jamais complètement. Les nations ont une individualité qui a ses instincts; et le premier de tous, est celui de leur propre conservation. L'histoire montre le génie de la nation Française tellement porté aux conquêtes; dans les guerres de la Révolution, la France avait déployé une force militaire, si écrasante pour tous les états, qu'une occasion de l'affaiblir et de se donner contre elle des garanties futures dut être avidement saisie. Elle dut l'être surtout, parce que chacun avait la conviction que l'enchaînement, presque miraculeux des causes et des chances qui avaient amené des événements imprévus, ne se réaliserait point deux fois, et que le moment étoit unique pour s'assurer, soit une bonne part d'indemnités aux dépens des vaincus, soit des moyens de sécurité pour l'avenir.'—Telle étoit la disposition générale des agents diplomatiques réunis à Paris d'abord, puis à Vienne en 1814. Voyons qu'elle étoit plus particulièrement les vues de chacun. Le gouvernement Anglais est exclusif et personnel plus franchement qu'aucun autre, et il doit l'être. Les intérêts de cette nation puissante peuvent s'isoler, jusqu'à un certain point, de ceux du Continent. Les Anglais n'ont en quelque sorte qu'un pied à terre en Europe. L'univers est le domaine de leur commerce, celui-ci suppose et entretient le gigantesque établissement de leur marine, le commerce fournit aux impôts, au crédit et aux besoins croissans: il faut qu'il subsiste et s'étende ou que l'Angleterre, tombe. La domination des mers est donc un besoin politique de l'Angleterre, dans le principe, assurément très légitime de sa propre conservation.' 'Mais la France rendue à la paix rentrerait dans ses avantages naturels. Sa position centrale en Europe, la vaste étendue de ses côtes, la richesse et la variété de ses productions, l'industrie, activité et les dispositions aventureuses de ses habitants, tout

devoit faire présager aux Anglais, que lorsque la France aurait repris une assiette tranquille, et son rang, elle pourrait devenir le centre et le point de réunion d'efforts vers le but de l'affranchissement des mers. La Hollande déchue en puissance, n'offrait aux Anglais aucun sujet d'inquiétude comme rivale; mais il importait à leur politique, de la soustraire à l'influence Française, et la création du royaume des Pays Bas, n'a pas eu d'autre objet. Les postes de Gibraltar et de Malthe suffisoient bien à assurer la domination des Anglais dans la Méditerranée, mais il leur convenait d'avoir en Italie un port sûr et commode, lequel peut également recevoir au besoin, un corps d'armée, pour secourir leurs alliés dans les plaines de Lombardie et du Piémont, contre les invasions de leurs ennemis naturels, redevenus forts et par conséquent enterprenans. La possession de Gènes étoit admirable sous ces rapports. On l'occupoit; mais la prétention de le garder auroit ébranlé de grands obstacles. On le fit donner au Roi de Sardaigne, ce qui revenait au même pour le fond des choses. Les droits d'un peuple indépendant, furent sacrifiés à la politique de l'Angleterre, couverte du prétexte de la paix future de l'Europe. Chacune des puissances avait des lurs sevens particulières, qu'elle se justifiait également sur le principe de sa propre conservation. C'est ainsi que la Russie s'appuyant des derniers événements, prétendit à la protection exclusive de la Pologne, pour couvrir ses propres frontières; c'est ainsi que la Prusse se fit indemniser aux dépens de la Saxe et des provinces d'outre Rhin, enlevées aux Français. C'est ainsi, enfin, que l'Autriche, docteur du royaume de Venise, qu'elle ajoutait au Milanais, au Tyrol, et à ses autres provinces contigues, estima qu'il étoit nécessaire à la sûreté de ses possessions d'Italie, de retenir la propriété des trois Vallées, qui, à la suite des crises de la Révolution et de la guerre, avaient imploré sa protection.'— (Vide page 5 to 9)

We wish just to remark here, that the policy attributed to England must have been soon lost sight of,—as, in consequence of our bombardment of Algiers, and the subsequent depression of the Barbary Powers, nearly the whole of the carrying trade in the Mediterranean has been monopolized by the Genoese. After this little *exposé* of the author's political feeling, and the sort of spirit which actuates the great Powers, he enters into the military part of his subject.

We are informed that the Valtelline, the Chiavenna, and the Barmio, three valleys dependent upon the Grisons, but equal to them in population, disgusted by a refusal, on the part of the latter, to grant them an equality of political rights, threw themselves into the arms of Napoleon, by whom they were incorporated with the Cisalpine republic;—the similarity of customs, manners, climate, language, and religion, favouring this amalgamation with the population of the Milanese. After a period of fifteen years had elapsed, the Grisons, presuming upon the ruin of Buonaparte, reclaimed these valleys; but refusing still to grant to their inhabitants the rights they so justly demanded, Austria, found no difficulty in preserving the rich spoil as a part of her newly acquired territory; the advantages derived from the possession weighing more with her than the evil of supporting rebellious subjects against their legitimate masters,—doubtless because those masters were not crowned. These advantages were not small. The Valtelline, through which flows the Adda, fertile, and containing 80,000 inhabitants, secure, in a space of twenty leagues, a commodious communication between the Tyrol and the Milanese. The Chiavenna is the key of the Grisons, opening, by the pass of the Splügen, into the higher valley of the Rhine, and enabling the Austrians to forestall the French in the eastern parts of Switzerland, if need be. The other powers assembled in Congress, in despite of the remonstrances of the Grisons, let this pass; being, says the author, absorbed in the affairs of Poland, Galicia, Belgium and Saxony; in other words, too much occupied in securing their own spoils, to care about what Austria did, provided, she interfered not with them. But says the author, if the negotiators had come to Congress with what he calls ideas purely European, and a desire to ensure a permanent state of peace, they would have considered Switzerland as a great natural fortress, destined, to prevent Austria and France from coming into contact; and following up this idea, should have proceeded to 'encercler' cette agglomération de républiques d'une frontière facile à défendre, et régler par d'équitables indemnités, les réclamations auxquelles l'intérêt de la sûreté du pays aurait pu donner lieu. En traçant cette frontière on aurait eu égard à ce que les Suisses ne peuvent jamais avoir contre leur voisins des vues agressives,—on aurait donné à ce pays dont le gouvernement fédératif est essentiellement pacifique, tous les défilés, les cols, les passages, qui peuvent être aisément gardés. En traçant la ligne de démarcation avec les états voisins, on aurait attribué aux Suisses, non seulement les crêtes, mais le glacis qui aide à les défendre; on aurait détruit les routes militaires qui avaient été construites pour menacer l'Italie en France, et qui sont un encouragement permanent à des tentatives réciproquement hostiles; on aurait, en un mot, multiplié les obstacles à entreprendre, et les moyens de résister.'

The project of destroying the anker roads, of the Simplon and Mont Cenis, we regard as shortsighted and barbarous; but we shall have occasion to speak of this more at large in another part of this article;

contenting ourselves, for the present, with observing, that the Austrians having no right, in justice or reason, to be in Italy at all, we should have expected from a lover of liberty a recommendation to that power to resign such unjust pretensions, and to quit the country, rather than contemplate for their security the destruction of the finest existing monuments of the genius and industry of man. Passing, however, from this, our author thus describes the geography of Switzerland, with a view to his account of the campaign of 1799, by the result of which he proposes to prove the impolicy of any attempt upon the part of the French to take military possession of Italy.

‘La Suisse et la Savoie neutralisées, forment ensemble une figure que se rapproche d’un triangle rectangle, dont l’angle droit, serait à Schaffhouse, les deux autres au Mont-du-Chat, et au Munsterthal, frontière du Tyrol. L’hypothénuse de ce triangle est d’environ 90 lieues, le côté moyen de 65, et le petit côté de 40 lieues. La direction de la base est nord-est. Cette base confine à la Savoie, au Piémont, et au Milanais, le côté moyen, à la France et à la Souabe, le petit côté à la Souabe et au Tyrol. L’angle sud-ouest forme un saillant sur la France. Le Rhin et le Rhône qui prennent leur source au milieu de la base du triangle, suivent à peu près, la direction de son grand côté, savoir, le premier, au NE., puis au nord par les Grisons, le second au SO. par le Valais. L’un et l’autre courent entre deux des plus hautes chaînes des Alpes. Une chaîne secondaire formée par le Jura, en lignes redoublées, s’étend du fort de l’Ecluse jusque près de Schaffhouse; on elle ne s’ouvre que pour donner passage aux eaux de l’Aar, de la Reuss, de la Limath, et de la Thur. Le vaste bassin formé par cette chaîne secondaire, et par la ligne intérieure des montagnes primitives, est coupé de chaînes interrompues, d’épérons détachés, de vallées profondes, de torrens, de rivières et de lacs. Les deux grandes vallées du Rhin et du Rhône, communiquent avec ce bassin par des cols étroits et des passages plus ou moins difficiles dans quelques de ces passages, on a pratiqué des routes pour le commerce. Le grand triangle de la Suisse, interposé au milieu du continent, fait par son angle le plus aigu, une saillie sur la France et sur la Savoie, non neutralisée; l’autre angle aigu de la Suisse, s’avance sur les états de la maison d’Autriche. Le reste est limité par la Savoie, le Piémont, et le Duché de Baden.’

Now, it seems that the French Directory in 1798 determined, for the purpose of forwarding a vast plan of campaign against the Allies, to take military possession of Switzerland, seduced, says the author, ‘par l’espoir de piller le trésor d’un pays ami, et d’éblouir les Français par un plan gigantesque.’ The pillage of Switzerland could not be any very great temptation; but the opportunity afforded by the unjust pretensions of the oligarchy of Berne, to rule the Pays de Vaud, and the general dissensions between the aristocratic and democratic cantons, was too great for the virtue of the French Government, of whose genius and spirit of justice, we cannot give a better example than by quoting a passage, not from our author, who may be rejected as an interested witness, but from the history of General Servan, who had been Minister of War when the Duke of Brunswick invaded France,—a man of uncommon talents, practical and theoretical, and withal too honest to excuse his countrymen at the expense of truth.

‘Le gouvernement Français, fidèle à son système de propagandisme directionnel, n’était cependant pas encore satisfait. Il voulait renverser entièrement l’antique constitution helvétique, et lui substituer une forme de gouvernement combinée sur les élémens de la constitution Française, ainsi qu’en Italie et en Batavie, car il n’y avait plus qu’une bonne constitution, pour les montagnes de la Suisse comme pour les marais de la Hollande, et les plaines de la Lombardie; pour un peuple pasteur ou agricole, comme pour un peuple essentiellement commerçant; pour les climats du midi, comme pour ceux du nord. Quels que fussent les régions, la température, le caractère, les mœurs, l’étendue, la position topographique, la population, les habitudes, il n’y avait plus qu’une bonne forme de gouvernement, et la Suisse, dont l’heure était venue, devait se soumettre à accueillir un acte constitutionnel qui réunissait tous les cantons en une seule république.’

The author before us, thinks the injustice of this scheme was also the immediate cause of the losses of the French in 1799. In this we cannot agree with him: and we shall endeavour to point out where we think him in error, observing, that in the general impolicy of the act we entirely agree, although we think that his just indignation, or something else, has a little blinded him to the true causes of failure.

Having given the numbers of the opposing armies and their positions and described the most important points, upon which he says their manœuvres turned, he rapidly sketches the History of the Campaign of 1799; by which it appears that the French, besides an army in Naples under MacDonald, had 157,000 men, distributed as follows—

50,000 men under Schérer, in the strong position of the Adige.
42,000 under Massena, in Switzerland.
40,000 under Jourdan, in Suabia—(the army of the Danube.)
25,000 upon the Rhine under Bernadotte—(army of observation.)

157,000

The Allies, to oppose this force, had 169,000 men, thus placed.
66,000 under the Archduke Charles—(the army of Suabia.)
18,000 in the Vorarlberg.
18,000 in the Tyrol.
7,000 in the Grisons.
36,000 upon the Adige.
24,000 at Vurtybourg—(the army of Reserve.)

169,000

—In addition to which, the Russian army of 70,000 men was hastily advancing to their support. The plan of campaign was to engage the attention of the Archduke by the advance of Jourdan’s army to the Danube, while Massena seized upon the Tyrol, for the purpose of cutting off the communication between the Austrian army of the Danube, and that of Italy, and, by menacing the flanks and rear of the last, oblige it to retreat from the strong position of the Adige. Jourdan accordingly advanced to the eastern end of the Lake of Constance, his left feeling towards the Danube; but the almost impregnable post of Feldkirch upon the Rhine, being occupied in force by General Hotze, a Swiss in the service of Austria, a man of remarkable talent, and intimately acquainted with the country, it became impossible to establish a direct communication with Massena, who had by this time seized upon the Grisons, and the head of the valley of the Adige. To remove this obstacle, many desperate attacks were made upon Feldkirch, but without success. Hotze was successful in repelling them all; and Jourdan, pressed by the Archduke, and giving battle at Stockach, was defeated and retired hastily to his base of operations on the Rhine. In this dilemma, Massena, who dared not move down the valley of the Adige, while uncertain of Jourdan’s fate, and having Hotze and Belgarde in his rear, took every measure that the most consummate skill could dictate, to preserve possession of the ground he had gained, expecting the result of Schérer’s operations; but Schérer was also beaten: and the Russians having formed a junction with the army of Italy, he was forced back upon and through the Milanese, by which all the French positions in the Grisons were turned, while Belgarde from the Tyrol, and Hotze from Feldkirch, attacked them in front; and to add to their difficulties, the petty cantons rose in arms upon their rear, and cut off some of their posts of communication.

In this dilemma, Massena performed wonders; he had fortified the defile of Luciensteg, the key of the Grisons from the Vorarlberg, and Hotze attacked it in vain. Belgarde was defeated by Lecourbe; but a rapid movement by the latter upon Bellegona was necessary to save the pass of St Gothard from the Russians, and gave the French a new position, which extended from the valley of the Tescino to the Lake of Constance. Jourdan had before this time quitted his army, and Massena was invested with the chief command. He endeavoured to maintain himself in the Grisons; but the Gallant Hotze, at the head of his enraged countrymen, once more attacked the defile of Luciensteg, and, in despite of its strength, natural and artificial, carried it with a headlong charge, and, Massena quitting all his posts, fell back upon his second line of defences; but, being pressed by superior forces, he was driven out of Zurich, and finally concentrated the greatest part of his forces behind the Limath, and prepared for new efforts. An opportunity was soon afforded him. An order from Vienna obliged the Archduke to send a great portion of his left wing to reinforce the army of Italy, a body of 20,000 Russians under Korkasow, being destined to replace them in Switzerland. Massena seized the moment between the departure of the former, and the arrival of the latter; and attacking the posts of the Allies, got possession of St. Gothard with the valleys of the Reus, Switz, Glaris, and the Valais; pushed parties on the Usnach and Pfaffikon, north of the Zurich See; and endeavoured to bring on a general battle, which the Archduke refused, although reinforced by the 20,000 Russians under Korkasow. The bombardment of Philipsbourg upon the Rhine, by General Müller induced him to fly to its assistance with a considerable portion of his army, at the very moment that Suwarow, with his Russians of the army of Italy, advanced by the passes of St. Gothard to take the French line in flank and rear, and to place it between two fires.

The sagacious Massena, once more seized the happy moment; defeated Korkasow and Hotze, cut their communications, and pushed them across the Rhine; and then, with incredible activity, marched back in time to support his right wing under Lecourbe, who, pressed by Suwarow, was upon the point of being overpowered in the Muttenthal near Switz. Suwarow suffered great loss, and saved himself with difficulty in the Rhiethal; and Korkasow having again advanced, was again defeated by the indefatigable Massena, who remained master of Switzerland, as the beaten armies were not able to unite except behind the Rhine and the Lake of Constance, with the loss of baggage, artillery, and nearly half their original numbers. The brave and skilful Hotze fell at the first attack upon the Allies. His death was an overwhelming calamity, deeply regretted, and impossible to repair.

Now, with this brief abstract of the campaign before us, let us examine the chain of reasoning by which this author endeavours to show,

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that the ill success of the French was owing entirely to their urgent occupation of Switzerland. We admit willingly, that, as a general axiom, injustice and violence in politics are sure to recoil upon the heads of the perpetrators; but we must be careful not to attribute a particular effect to a general, if we can find an immediate and particular cause sufficient to account for it.

The French armies were, the author says, at that time numerous, enthusiastic and confident, commanded by excellent generals, and directed, under a conjunction of the most favourable circumstances, towards the execution of a gigantic plan of conquest, the details of which were conducted with the most consummate skill. Massena, he says, committed no fault; his Lieutenants rivalled him in resource and intelligence. Jourdan was a good general, Scherer not a bad one; and yet, 'le sang avoit coulé par torrens, la valeur, l'habileté, la fortune, avaiént secondé les Français; et cependant ils se retrouvaient en Suisse exactement dans la position d'on ils étoient partis, en ouvrant avec un projet d'offensive audacieuse, une campagne qui leur avoit enlevé l'Italie.'

Now, in the first place, it is not true that any very fortunate conjunction of circumstances favoured the French, unless ignorance and rapacity, upon the part of the Directory, fraud and negligence in their agents, want and misery in the armies, and disorder in every branch of the civil administration, can be so called. Scherer was disliked by the army for his rapine and intrigues; Jourdan was very respectable man, and a gallant soldier, but a very bad general; Massena was undoubtedly of singular ability, but he had not the chief command at first; and the plan of the campaign was vicious in the outset; while the execution with the exception of Massena's part, was feeble and unskilful.

By the plan of campaign, two things must be understood,—the general plan of the Directory, in a political point of view, against the Allies; and the military scheme for the execution. Our presents arguments apply to it only under the last point of view; but let us first support our assertions. General Servan, in his history of the war, thus describes the state of France, from 1797 to the year that Napoleon assumed the reins of government.

'Depuis le 18 Fructidor, au 5 (4th September 1797), la situation de la France étoit toujours plus affligeante. Dans l'intérieur, ce n'étoit que découragement, mécontentement, désespoir, chacun voyait la guerre prête à ce rallumer plus opiniâtre et plus sanglante que jamais, et chacun étoit convaincu que le directoire pouvait le prévenir. Les contributions ne semblaient sortir des mains du peuple que pour engraisser une nuée de vampires qui devoient sa substance, et venaient le braver dans sa misère par le faste le plus insolent. Le commerce expirait, le numéraire disparaissait, la confiance s'évanouissait, le crédit s'éteignait les arts, réparateurs ne étoient nullement encouragés ceux de pur agrément étoient inappréciés. Mais comment les armées Françaises jusqu'alors victorieuses, avaiént elles pu essuyer tout à coup de grands revers et éprouver des défaites presque continuelles? Par quelle raison les avait on vus malgré bravoure des soldats et leur patience, repoussées des bords de la Brenta sur ceux de la Bormida, et de ceux du Lech sur ceux du Rhin? Lisez la correspondance des généraux, vous y trouverez à chaque ligne des plaintes sur le trop petit nombre de troupes à leurs ordres comparées à celles des ennemis; sur l'incurie et insouciance du Directoire relativement aux armées. Lisez ensuite les instructions du Directoire, et vous ne pourrez vous empêcher d'être révolté de ses plans gigantesques, et de ses ordres réitérés d'attaquer partout et de pousser vivement l'offensive avec des forces infiniment inférieures, déseignées depuis le Bas Rhin jusque dans la Calabre, et des soldats manquant de tout, renfermés en partie dans des villes dont on avait négligé les approvisionnements et les fortifications. Eh! Que pouvaient contre tous les périls qui obsédaient la France au dedans et au dehors, des hommes ou cupides, ou livrés uniquement à leurs plaisirs, et profondément ignorans en administration militaire et politique? Il est impossible de tracer ici le tableau fidèle des déchirements de notre patrie; puisse une plume éloquente les offrir à la postérité pour éloigner à jamais les causes qui produisirent des effets aussi funestes! And he supports this by the following extract from a work, entitled 'La Première Année du Consulat de Buonaparte.'

'Le mérite par-tout persécuté, les hommes honnêtes par-tout chassés des fonctions publiques, les brigands réunis de toutes parts, dans leurs infernales, cavernes, des scélérats en puissance, des apologistes de la terreur à la tribune nationale, la spoliation rétablie sous le titre d'emprunt forcé, l'assassinat préparé, et des milliers de victimes désignées sous le titre d'otages, le signal du pillage, du meurtre, de l'incendie, toujours au moment de ce faire entendre dans une proclamation de la patrie en danger; mêmes cris, mêmes hurlemens dans les clubs qu'en 1793, mêmes bourreaux, mêmes victimes; plus de liberté, plus de propriétés, plus de sûreté pour les citoyens, plus de finance, plus de crédit pour l'état! L'Europe presque entière, l'Amérique même déchainées contre nous, des armées en déroute, l'Italie perdue, le terri-

toire Français presque envahi, tel étoit; il y a un an, la position de la France!'

What a picture of weakness and distraction, of wickedness and folly in this proud revolutionary government! and was such a complication of disorders in the State a favourable conjuncture of affairs? But the thing truly to be considered is the plan itself and the mode of its execution.

We have already extracted from the work, the positions and force of the armies. The author differs a little in numbers from Servan; but we shall adopt his statement, which coincides with that of Mathieu Dumas.

From Philipsburgh on the Rhine, to the head of the Adriatic, upon an irregular line of about 400 miles, the French armies, amounting to 157,000 men, were divided into four corps, each commanded by generals independent of each other, and of course subject to all the jealousies and dissensions attending coalesced armies. The plan was, to operate a combined movement, for the purpose of penetrating by the Grisons and the Tyrol; and thus, turning the positions of the armies of the Danube and the Adige, open a way to the heart of Austria Proper. Now, to give the chance of success to such a plan, it would be necessary to have superior numbers—to have a perfect understanding between the generals—to be victorious in all preliminary attacks—to be exact in calculations as to time, distance, &c.;—in short, to move armies over an immense tract of difficult ground as one would move chessmen, which is evidently impossible, without such a run of fortune as it would be absurd to expect in human transactions. A single failure or mistake upon any one point of importance, would necessarily draw after it the failure of the whole plan; and the important points were multiplied beyond measure by such an immense extent being given to the combined movements. The inertness of one general—the too great activity of another—the dullness of a third, and a thousand other accidents, were each sufficient to ruin the hopes of the whole campaign, the plan of which we are justified in calling vicious at the outset, and incapable of great results; because no greater fault could be committed in war, than the endeavour to unite several masses moving upon concentric lines, at a strategical point, already in possession of an enemy superior in numbers, and who, from that circumstance, was always enabled to overwhelm the separated armies.

Such, however, was the plan. Let us now attend to its execution.—Jourdan with his army broke up from Basle and Huningen, and advanced in such a direction, that he placed the Lake of Constance between Massena and himself, without a possibility of his being able to open his communication again, except by the post of Feldkirk, situated at the east end of the Lake; but that post, one of the strongest in the world, was defended by 18,000 men, and supported by 66,000 more under the Archduke Charles, who soon put a stop to the activity of Jourdan. In the mean time, Massena pushed on by the opposite side of the Lake, attacked Feldkirk with a part of his army, and, with the other part, seized upon the Grisons, defended by 7000, and penetrated to the Tyrol occupied by 18,000 men. Thus it appears, that 91,000 men, in possession of a strong central position, were attacked by two armies operating upon double exterior lines, separated by a lake, whose united force amounted to only 82,000 men. Could the result be for a moment doubtful? And is it not rather matter of wonder that the French were not annihilated? It is only necessary to read Napoleon's campaign against Wormser and Alvingi, to feel that such would have been their fate if he had command the Austrians. But this was not all; the 18,000 men in the Tyrol who guarded the rear of the army of the Adige, and the 70,000 Russians who were upon the point of reinforcing the latter, have not been reckoned. How apparent then is the absurdity of expecting success under such circumstances?

It is certain, however, that Jourdan might have assembled his forces more in advance than he did, and that he might have even been upon the Liller before the Archduke had quitted the Lech. He would thus have insulated the post of Feldkirk, and, by taking it in reverse, while Massena attacked it in front, might possibly have carried it. We will suppose so, and that Massena and himself, had pushed on with joint forces to complete their success. The Archduke, having his army entire, might easily have rallied the remains of the defeated divisions upon himself, and upon the army of the Tyrol. We will allow near two-thirds of their whole number to cover the loss sustained by them, there still would have been a mass of 96,000 men, united under the command of one general, posted in a strong country, to oppose the French, reduced by the attack upon Feldkirk and the Grisons—say to 76,000—a very moderate computation. What could be done? Should they attempt to pass by the Voralberg upon the line of the Danube, the Russians, 70,000 strong, would have met them in front, while the Archduke cut their communication with Switzerland, and attacked their flank. Suppose they attacked the Archduke in front, the Russians moving along the Danube cut their communications upon that line, confined them to Switzerland,

and were ready to assist in crushing them in a general battle. Let us, however, give them another chance; let us suppose that Scherer, with his 56,000 men, was so happy as to defeat the 36,000 Austrians posted upon the Adige; we say, so happy, because that position is almost impregnable to an attack in front; and it could only be turned by Massena, along the valley of that river, the head of which was in his possession. But Massena durst not, as we have seen, move down that valley with an army in the Tyrol. The junction of the beaten army with the Archduke was then secure; and the latter, still preserving a central and commanding position, would have found himself at the head of an imposing mass of about 120,000 men; flanking the army of Scherer, if he attempted to penetrate by Carinthia; checking the united armies of Massena and Jourdan; and admirably situated to support and communicate with the Russian army; while the latter pushed along the line of Danube, and turned the left of Jourdan's position, with the choice, as we before stated, of confining him to Switzerland cut off from his base, or of assisting the Archduke to overwhelm him in a general action. Suppose even that Scherer joined Massena and Jourdan, their three armies would not have amounted to 130,000 men, a force inadequate to insure any rapid and decisive success against the Archduke, while the Russians might have acted as before. Is it necessary to go any further to prove that the plan of campaign was so vicious in the conception, as (thus far) so badly executed as to be incapable of any beneficial result?

Hitherto, then, the French were successful, from causes quite independent of their occupation of a free country. What was the cause of the favourable turn in their affairs? A court intrigue, says the author, which no man had a right to calculate upon in arranging a plan of campaign; but in this case it was not a court intrigue, but a change of plan, and perhaps not a bad one, upon the author's own showing, at least under the existing circumstances, if instant success in Italy was important. The true answer however is, that the appointment of Massena to the chief command was the cause of the success of the French. We have already seen with what infinite talent that superlative captain conducted himself in this emergency, and have only to recal the concluding part of his manoeuvres to find the secret of his success. To induce the Archduke to weaken his line, the wily Frenchman caused Philipsbourg to be bombarded by the army of observation under General Müller. The snare took; and, pouncing like an eagle upon his prey, Massena defeated those in front of him, turned upon the assailants in his rear, broke them, and again returned in time to meet and overcome, a second time, those who had rallied after the first defeat. Now, we say that all this was purely military, and had nothing to do with the policy of occupying Switzerland in the first instance, which might nevertheless have been, and may be, a wise measure, notwithstanding, this campaign. While the Allies were concentrated, and the French disseminated, the Allies were successful; when the French were concentrated, and the Allies disseminated, the French were victorious. The armies, when conducted upon false principles, and by ignorant generals, were beaten; and, when manoeuvred upon just principles, with sagacity and talent, were victorious.

We have observed, that the plan of campaign embraces two things which this author seem anxious to confound, but which, we conceive, ought to be kept perfectly distinct. The Directory might have judged justly that Switzerland was the proper territorial line of operations, and yet have chalked out a defective plan for their generals to pursue; or they might have imagined an excellent manoeuvring plan, which, being upon a false territorial line, could not have permanent results. The latter part of the first supposition has been proved from the operations of this campaign; but it by no means follows that the former part was either well or ill conceived. The author says it was ill conceived, from the danger to which it exposed France, as being invaded through that very country which she had occupied as the point from whence she could most annoy her enemy.

Under any circumstances, great danger must arise to a country whose main armies are defeated; and therefore, we cannot admit the peculiar force of the argument in this case more than another; and we are disposed to demur to the rebuke contained in the following passage. 'Il est des esprits qui se refusent à admettre les conclusions d'une logique rigoureuse, et les inductions fondées sur d'incontestables faits, parce qu'ils se défient d'une dialectique qui peut-être trompeuse; ils ont besoin d'une autorité imposante pour fixer leurs incertitudes.' Buonaparte is this threatened authority. He, it seems, withdrew his troops from Switzerland, and declared her neutrality inviolable, as more suitable for the interests of France; but that was after he had conquered Italy, and secured possession of the Iron Crown. He thought differently, when, upon his arrival from Egypt, he found his ancient conquest in the hands of the Austrians; and indeed this seems to have struck the author so forcibly, that he suddenly breaks off from his course to give a history of this 'irruption soudaine' of Napoleon over the Alps,

between which and Hannibal's march he makes a comparison rather out of place.

The fact, in short, is clear, that it is not very dangerous either for France or Austria, that Swiss neutrality should be violated; but when once either of these powers is in quiet possession of Italy, it becomes important to the last degree to that power, that the other should not be able to turn her positions by the mountains of Helvetia; and thus the poor Swiss are flattered, bribed, or invaded from either side, even as the Hunnish spear or Gaulish sword sweeps over the classic plains of Italy.

Quitting this digression, the author makes the application of his facts to show the absurdity of General Sebastiani's proposition, when viewed as a simple military operation. To invade Austria by Switzerland, when the French were masters of Italy, he says, was proved to be futile by the campaign of 1799. To do so, without being masters of it, he says is madness. Upper Italy must first be conquered; yet it cost five active campaigns, conducted by the ablest generals, and executed by the most enthusiastic troops, before the French could cross the mountains of Savoy and Piedmont, and enter victorious on the plains of the latter, where however, in future, new difficulties must be encountered, as in those plains they will be met by united Austrian, Piedmontese, and English armies; for, says he, a war with Germany includes of course Holland and England; and Genoa has been given to the King of Sardinia by the latter, to be held for the convenience of disembarking her armies on such an occasion.

We have not space to analyze the long and laboured exposition which follows, of the manner in which a reverse would bring on a successful invasion of France. The description of the military topography of Piedmont and Savoy, and the French frontier, is able, but is not conclusive; the argument drawn from it proceeds upon a preconceived system of the author's, who seems to imagine, that the moment the great mountains are passed, Lyons is laid open to the invading armies. He forgets that Lyons itself is a grand strategical point, easily fortified, and admirably situated to support the movements of the defensive army. We refer our readers, for a proof of this, to the preparations made by Napoleon in 1815, for the defence of that portion of France. The Duke of Berwick's defence of the frontier from the mouth of the Var to Mont Melian, is also at variance with some of his positions. There is however considerable knowledge and talent displayed in this part of the work. It is followed by a vehement argument, to prove, that France should for ever dismiss from her mind the idea of making any impression upon Italy; that all chances are against her, whether in war or politics; that it will be unjust, absurd, and unsuccessful; that the only glimpse of success arises from the roads of the Simplon and Mont Cenis, which however would be only a false hope, as these would, in the end, be disadvantageous to France. Nevertheless, he earnestly inculcates the necessity of destroying them, not in one place only, but in many. This, indeed, seems to be a favourite object with him, and might almost give rise to suspicions that Swiss independence is not so much in his thoughts as Italian dependence. We shall make some remarks upon this Gothic recommendation.

To destroy the road of the Simplon and that of Mont Cenis could in no way benefit Swiss. Say that they are of little use in commerce, and that some English travellers alone will feel the loss; what then? Has the attraction of foreigners, and a free social intercourse between nations, no advantages? But is this really all that they are good for? Can it be possible, that a broad and beaten road between France and Italy is of no other use than to please a few English travellers? Are not inventions and commercial enterprises springing up daily in all parts of Europe?—and every source of profit, every communication rendered daily more available for the pleasure and comfort of mankind? Who then can say that those stupendous monuments of human talent are to be useless for ever, even though they may be so now? Shall the noblest works of peace be destroyed, for the chance of evading a distant and uncertain evil, in an uncertain war? But we deny that any evil can arise to the Swiss nation from their preservation. Who is there that does not know how the Simplon is made?—that it runs along the side of tremendous precipices, through long galleries piercing the solid rocks and over bridges that hang in air, and tremble to the sound of the rushing torrents underneath? How then should an army pass such places if opposed? If they give room for numbers of the assailants, and for their artillery to act, do they not do the same and much more, for the defenders? Is not the advantage entirely in favour of the latter? When the time comes, break down one of those bridges, place artillery at the entrance of one of those galleries, and what becomes of an advancing army? Do the same by a bridge in their rear, and they are lost. Say they force such obstacles, their baggage and materiel cannot pass, with an active mountain corps of warriors hanging upon their flanks and rear. Such a road has infinitely more advantages for the invaded than the invaders. In the natural mountain passes, man is opposed

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to man; they are equal; where one can move, another can; and the most numerous party will generally succeed. But on these grand routes, all the natural difficulties of mountain warfare are capable of being increased by the artificial resources of regular fortifications; and, thus united, are impossible to overcome. Besides, it forces all the supplies and ammunition to be collected upon one line, and indicates the exact spot where the greatest efforts should be made against the enemy, without enabling them to collect great means of defence in return. Let the road be great or small, the line of baggage and of march must be long; and the mountains on its sides cannot be all occupied. What, then, can be the motive of the author, a Swiss patriot, in thus vehemently urging the destruction of these roads? To Austria, indeed, they are obnoxious. With the good will of the Swiss, the Piedmontese, the Milanese, the Venetians, the Neapolitans might look forward to a release from the heavy thralldom they endure. But if France is to be cut off from Italy—if Switzerland is to be rendered impassable, and taught to believe that, like a tortoise, the thickness and beauty of her shell is her only value—the miserable Italians may gnaw and bite the chain that holds them. They may howl under the scourge; but they can entertain no reasonable prospect of release from their bonds, or even of a mitigation of their sufferings. But we ask again, of what use is all this to Switzerland? Can it be advantageous to a free nation to help to keep others in slavery? A generous policy is the safest. They hold the keys of Italy; and it cannot be dangerous to open the gates to a delivering army, when fair occasion offers. They can always shut them against an aggressive army; and free and grateful Italy would enable them to keep them closed.

We trust that it will not be supposed, from what we have said, that we admit the propriety or justice of General Sebastiani's proposition, any more than justness of the hints we meet with in this writer upon Austrian moderation. We conceive that there is no problem in mathematics more demonstrable than the important truth, that violence and oppression upon the part of one nation towards another, can never, in the end, be advantageous. All history bears witness to the truth. Should a nation even be so small that it may be absolutely exterminated, it mends not the matter; the memory of their miserable fate is always present to the minds of the more powerful. The weak band together, the stronger assist them. The hatred of mankind, the valour for patriotism, the wisdom, the cunning, nay, even the treachery of all other people, are combined: they watch for an opportunity, and assuredly it will come, when blood and spoliation will be repaid with their like. Conquest!—What advantage is that to the conquerors in such a cause?—will it relieve the burthen of taxation incurred in the conquest?—will it enable them to fight other battles, with soldiers drawn from the conquered nations?—or, if it does, will they be happier themselves?

We may be told of the Romans. If there was ever one people more cursed and miserable than another, it was the Romans. We suffer hunger and nakedness and stripes, was the constant cry of the Plebeians, in reproaching their insolent masters the Patricians. Tumults, seditions, murders, civil wars, proscriptions, were constant and uninterrupted at home; while matines and massacres, to an extent almost incredible abroad, wrote, in bloody characters, the hatred and miseries of the countries subject to their sway. Nay, that very away was more advanced by the differences arising among their victims—from the remembrance of ancient injuries—than by the vigour of their arms. Yet the Romans civilized as they conquered, and were not more inhuman than their neighbours. They were victorious, it is true, but at the expense of their own comfort; the unhappy people suffered for the ambition of their rulers. The energies of whole nations were roused against them, and carried, even in falling, such desperate blows to their oppressors, as left them reason to wail over their success. How many lessons of this kind do modern times present! How many examples to be found in the history of the last 25 years! We find Prussian troops, under the Duke of Brunswick, invading France in 1792; and, in 1806, the French repaying their insolent proclamation, and retaliating their spoiliations fourfold more than justice required; for which they were again punished to the quick in 1814 and 1815!

The confederation of Pilnitz!—To how many woes for the confederates did that fatal league not lead? The partition of Poland!—Could Napoleon have ever invaded Russia without that inhuman proceeding? His base of operations, his principal means, numbers of soldiers, and, finally, safety for the remains of his army, he found in Poland. Let us descend to smaller examples, and more immediately relating to our subject. The pretensions of the aristocracy of Berne to domineer over the Pays de Vaud, excited the anger of the last; and they called in at once the principles and the troops of the French Republic, who soon caused the Bernois to repent of their policy. Had the French stopped there, it might have been well; but, violently and inhumanly, they entered Switzerland; and their soldiers had orders to massacre, says their own historian Servan, 'des misérables colons relégués dans les parties les plus arides des montagnes, presque étrangers au reste des hommes, pour les con-

traindre à renoncer aux idées d'indépendances démocratique, à leur culte religieux, unique patrimoine qu'ils tenoient de leur pères.' What followed?—the hatred of the Swiss, formerly their friends; and, in their distress in 1814 and 1815, vengeance was not forgotten. A free passage was granted to the Allies, and that passage may be again the cause of misery; for, on both sides, the spirit rankles yet. The Grisons governed the rich vallies of the Chiavenna, the Bormeo, and the Valteline. They demanded a community of political rights and privileges; they were refused—and instantly these vallies became a part of the Cisalpine republic. But time rolled on. Napoleon, who had incorporated them, fell; and the Grisons, untaught by experience, and obstinate in wrong, reclaimed their ancient subjects, without conceding their rights; and the indignant inhabitants of the vallies preferred even the Austrian yoke to theirs.

In the course of the author's observations, he touches upon the question of fortifying the town of Geneva, which he is averse to. It seems, that the idea had caught the minds of the Genevese; and the two last pamphlets, which form the heading of this article, give the *pros* and *cons* for this affair; the letter from Basle opposing, those from Geneva supporting, the proposal. We confess that we are entirely on the side of the citizen of Basle, whose letters are lively, sensible, and pregnant with excellent reasons against it; supporting himself by the opinion of the author of 'La Suisse dans l'intérêt de l'Europe.' Nothing, in fact, could be more unwise: fortifications are always expensive, both to build and to keep up; and their utility depends entirely upon their situation, and the support which may be derived from them by an operating army of defence. If they cover strong passes, command both sides of a great river, or are so centrally placed amid several strong positions, as to serve for a dépôt to all; or can impede or assist the junction of several corps which are obliged to march separately to gain a certain point, they are of infinite use. Now, with respect to the defence of Switzerland, we cannot see how Geneva fulfils any one of these objects; it cannot prevent the entrance of the French into the Pays de Vaud; but being once taken, it would for ever give them a hold upon that country; it would give them a base of operations—would contain their dépôts—and, with a flotilla upon the Lake, would supply the armies with provisions at little expense, and with great ease, for the whole length of that piece of water. It is true, that it stands upon the Rhone, blocks up the Simplon, and divides Lyons and Grenoble; but the command of the Rhone at that point is not important; a tête de pont at the bridge of St. Maurice, at a small expense, would equally block up the Simplon; and all Switzerland would serve as a dépôt, in the event of an invasion of France. Twenty millions francs is the estimate that has been made of the expense. It would probably amount to double; and this immense sum would be extracted from the pockets of a poor people, to draw destruction upon a flourishing town, and to sacrifice fifteen thousand men in a useless defence, when their services upon another point might be the salvation of the country. The eventual consequences of this plan of fortification would be, to give an excellent base of operations to an invading French army—a security to their dépôts—and an influence in the country by no means desirable. Buonaparte was so satisfied of the advantages to be derived from the plan, that he offered to defray the expenses. How delighted would he not have been to find the Swiss generously proposing to do it for him! It is said that it would do good, were it only for the purpose of nourishing old sentiments and opinions relative to the strength of the situation, and encouraging the idea of sacrificing all for the welfare of the State. But such sentiments, unless backed up by real strength, would soon evaporate; and the reaction would be more detrimental to the cause, than any advantage gained in the first instance. Not that we undervalue such feelings; but to put them to trial under such circumstances, is to render them ridiculous. Who can forbear laughing at the description of George the Second's appearance at the battle of Dettingen, as given by the King of Prussia, in his sarcastic manner?

'Le Roi d'Angleterre se tint pendant toute la bataille devant son Bataillon Hanovrien, le pied gauche en arrière, l'épée à la main, et le bras étendu à peu près dans l'attitude, où se mettent les maîtres d'es-crime pour pousser le quart.'

Yet it is good to be brave and firm, and to encourage troops in action—although not exactly in that manner. The general ideas of the writer of the letters from Geneva are, however, ingenious and worthy of attention—excellent, if we substitute entrenched camps for fortifications. His notice of the town of Berne, as an important strategical point, marks a sagacious military mind; but the town itself is not well calculated for a fortification, surrounded, as it is, by domineering heights. Entrenched camps cost, in comparison, little or nothing, as the troops work upon them as part of their duty, and they need not be commenced until the moment of action is at hand, if the ground has been previously marked with care and skill. Thus the beauty of the environs, and the comfort and pleasure of the citizens, need not be sacrificed until the moment of actual necessity. It must be remembered too, that, when an army

of insufficient strength sits down before a fortified town, that town must fall; and the garrison is lost, if the besiegers do their duty. Not so with an entrenched camp, which containing only an army, can always defend itself with effect and may from thence attack the enemy, or make good its retreat to another point; besides which, they are occupied or relinquished without compromising the towns in whose neighbourhood they stand, very different from regular expensive ramparts, commanded on all sides, and partly garrisoned by burghers, sure to quarrel with the regulars, when under the horrors of a bombardment.

If the Gurten mountain and the smaller range of hills were thus occupied, Berne would be better defended by 30,000 men than it could be by expensive fortifications; not so much by the strength of the camp as by its central position, from whence a single march might bring the army to the head of Lakes Morat and Neufchatel—to Arbez or to Solenne,—at which places strong entrenched posts might be occupied by advanced parties. From such a point, with a regular tête de pont at Arberg, and by breaking down, or securing with small works, all the bridges on the Aar, a line, extending from Yverdon to Coblenz, might be successfully defended, as the Swiss army could with ease arrive upon any threatened point, with much less fatigue, and in half the time that the enemy could.

Armed vessels upon the lakes, and watchtowers judiciously placed, so as to command an extensive view of the line of country through which an enemy must move, would greatly facilitate the execution. Suppose the enemy penetrates between Yverdon and Lausanne. In two marches he is met from Berne in front. The flotilla upon the Lake of Neufchatel obliges him to transport his materiel and supplies by land; and his flank and rear would be exposed to the activity of partisan corps, thrown into the mountains of Molesson.

We do not approve of the notion, however grand and patriotic it sounds, of having a central camp or citadel in the rocks, where the whole Swiss population, capable of bearing arms, might make their last stand in defence of the country. Such a proposition sounds well in a speech, and warms the heart of the brave; but reason and experience condemn it in practice. It subjects the nation to destruction by a single blow. It was much in vogue with the ancients, and always failed,—witness the siege of Alesia by Cæsar, and many instances in Alexander's operations against the Bactrians, Sogdians, &c. &c. In fact, it points to the road the enemy ought to take—it gives him a single object; and no courage or devotion will, in such a case, resist valour, numbers, and skill. Numantia, Saguntum, and many other strong places fell, in despite of their heroism. Those gallant and able men who have been most successful in their endeavours to defend free countries against powerful aggressors, have pursued a directly contrary course. To appear to be every where and no where—at one moment commanding large armies—at the next wandering with a few followers; such was the system of Sertorius and Viriatus, two of the greatest and most successful warriors that ever resisted the oppressions of the proud. While an invading army keeps in mass, attack it with small corps—when it disperses to pursue, unite in large masses, and crush his isolated divisions. In this consists the whole art of defending a difficult country against a powerful invader. It is only by such means that the energy, local knowledge, and numbers of a patriotic population, can balance the resources of discipline and the constant pressure of regular armies.

The Swiss may, however, unite both; there is no reason why the most exact knowledge of war and discipline should not be introduced among the troops of the Confederation; but then it must be done by the nation itself, and not by foreigners. The best bond of discipline is moral conduct elevated by patriotism. Give men a noble object to attain by their exertions, and those exertions will be great, and beneficial to their character in the making. Long service under foreigners weakens a soldier's attachment to his own nation. He comes back disliking the simplicity of his countrymen,—perhaps imbued with a respect for the power and courage of the strangers that borders upon fear—at all event tainted with the vices of a mere soldier's life, uncorrected by any elevated sentiments, and anxious by any means to display his acquirements in war, and to express his contempt for the plodding homely people who may be called upon to assist or to command him. In the moment of danger he will be unruly, if not subject to his own officer, and dangerous if he is. General Ludlow, talking of one, who, in the civil wars, had behaved ill, after much blustering, observes, that he was an old soldier who had served under foreign powers, 'a sort of persons much sought after by us in the beginning of the troubles, but found very hurtful in the end, being more given to boast of what they had done, than ready to do again.'

But it is not sufficient for the Swiss to perfect their military means without improving their political system at the same time. Placed as they are, between two powerful rival nations, they must suffer from

both alternately, if, like the Dukes of Savoy, they depend only upon the dexterity with which they can change sides in good time for their own benefit. Such a policy is feeble and uncertain, because it depends upon the talents of an individual; and degrading, because it weakens the obligations of generosity and fidelity in the eyes of the people, who are thus accustomed to praise and admire the deceit and treachery which procures their safety. The author of '*La Suisse dans l'Intérêt de l'Europe*,' imagines her true line of policy to consist in the rigid observance of her neutrality. His doctrine amounts to this—Be a tortoise when insulted, stupid and unresenting; be a porcupine when invaded, and shoot your quills upon all sides. This is very well as far as relates to the wars which may arise from the jealousy of France and Austria; but we will suppose a different case. We will suppose that Italy, animated by the remembrance of past independence and greatness, convinced by woful experience that disunion is weakness, should rouse herself, 'as an eagle renewing her mighty youth, purging and unscaling her long abused sight,' and strive to take her place as a nation among the mighty. If, under such circumstances, unable of herself to break her galling fetters, she should cry aloud to France for aid; and if France, having established her own liberty upon firmer foundations than before, should be forward to grant assistance; shall Switzerland step in to stop the expected boon? Shall she do so, and yet claim the sympathy of Europe, when the wrath of the tyrant is poured out against herself? Shall she not rather rejoice, that a noble part which it would become her to take at all risks, is evidently consistent with her best interests? She is not powerful enough to resist France or Austria for any length of time, single-handed; and it is almost as dangerous to call in the assistance of one, as to oppose the other. She may be tranquil between them for a while; but when they find it convenient to use her for their purposes, they will do it. 'What a fine field of battle will Sicily be for the Romans and Carthaginians!' cried Pyrrhus. Let the Swiss make the application!

But if Italy was freed and united under one government, by the assistance of France and the generosity of Switzerland, what would be her obvious policy? In continual dread of the power of France and Austria, she would naturally seek to ally herself with Switzerland, to whom she could not be dangerous; and the neutrality of the last, guaranteed and supported by Italy, would be respected by both the former; because fear is the best corrective of ambition.

When we read in Polybius of the rise, progress, and policy of the Achaean republic, we are struck with the lesson it holds out to all small independent states, and the peculiar resemblance between their situation and that of Switzerland. In their history may be seen, as it were in a glass, the very policy which the Swiss ought to pursue. From small beginnings they rose,—by their constancy and just dealings with surrounding nations,—by the benefits of a free and equal constitution, which they offered to all who chose to accept of it,—and by the courage and generosity with which they assisted their weaker neighbours to gain their freedom,—to such a pitch of power and fame, and they united nearly the whole of the Peloponnese in their confederacy; a confederacy which could only be overthrown by the insidious policy of the kings of Macedon, who, says this most accurate and philosophical of historians, broke up the confederation by their arts, and dispersed the people into separate and independent towns and villages. Why should not the Swiss Cantons imitate this noble and generous policy of the Achæans? Why should we despair of seeing the Tyrol, for example, joined to the Confederation, securing its own and the general prosperity, under an efficient federative government, which would be able to repress and control the petty tyranny and intrigues of the cantonal oligarchies? We should then indeed have an effectual barrier placed against the ambition and violence of Austria, upon that side of the world at least. The glittering bait would shine no longer for them; and, in a tranquil state of freedom, the genius of Italy might once more delight in an admiring world.

We may be told that these are dreams! Perhaps they are; but they are the dreams of many an enlightened, as well as many an ardent spirit—and stranger things have come to pass. We could dream with pleasure a little more upon such a subject. We could dream that Greece might still be free; and, being so, that a belt of Mountain Republics, worthy of their ancient glory, might extend from Basle to Byzantium, from the Rhine to the Hellespont,—supported by England, the power most interested in their welfare, and most able to assist them in the maintenance of their freedom. Strong, they would be to defend themselves, with such support; weak to offend others; stemming Russian pride, Austrian avarice, and French ambition, established too, without the violation of any right, without confounding the manners, or shocking the opinions of any people; but leaving each to their own natural boundaries, moral and geographical; to their own habits, religion, and customs; and united only by one common interest, beneficial to all, and injurious to none,—the interest of their common freedom.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Opinions Contrasted.

We ought to feel flattered, when so correct an English scholar as the *Johnsonian* Editor of the *BULL*, attributes the compositions of men both born and educated in England, to our pen. He has done so in other instances; which would be too tedious for us to select or enumerate. This shows the force, of either prejudice or malice; and how the judgment is perverted, when the heart is corrupted. We feel no more hesitation in assuring the Editor of the *BULL*, than we did his Correspondent *BRITANNICUS*, that he is equally mistaken in his *strong suspicions* and *positive proofs* to identify us with our Correspondents. But we cannot expect to receive better treatment from the *Bullies* than our Predecessor did; whom they charged, over and over again, as being the manufacturer of the letters he daily inserted in the *JOURNAL*. Although we do not pledge ourselves always to satisfy the cravings of the *BULL* hereafter, we shall tell him, on the present occasion, that one of the two letters which "*are laid at our door*," was received from the Interior, and the other from Town: and also, that we have two or three other letters, treating on the subjects noticed in the letters in question, lying by us yet for publication.

As the Editor of the *BULL* has so great a propensity to exercise his critical powers, and to make a display of his legal knowledge; it would not be a miss, if he were to sit down and ruminate seriously on the draft of the proposed Regulation for restraining the freedom of publication in India. He would find in it sufficient matter to occupy his attention, for months to come. He may write a dissertation on the word *hatred*, as he did on the word *liberty* the other day; and tell us how the Government can be brought into *hatred*! He may, by way of exercise, make other learned remarks upon the composition of the draft, and the legal manner in which it is drawn up; and enlighten the public by shewing how the penal part of it is in unison with the Acts of the British Legislature quoted therein, and conformable to Law. On these points, we should like to be instructed. But during the prosecution of his herculean labour, let him bear in mind what the favorite Poet of *BRITANNICUS*, his Correspondent, says:—

" 'Tis hard to say, if greater want of skill
Appear in writing or in judging ill;
But, of the two, less dang'rous is th' offence,
To tire our patience, than mislead our sense.
Some few in that, but numbers err in this,
Ten censur'd wrong for one who writes amiss."

Our Readers, however, must not be kept in ignorance of the opinion of this great Tauric Luminary, so far as he has already given it in a prefatory paragraph, on the said draft. It affords another example in support of the assertion we have already made, that when the heart is vitiated, the judgment gets perverted and led into dangerous and fatal errors. We give the choice morceau:—

"It will be seen from this that, the Regulation imposes no new restraint on the newspaper press. It only enables the Government to enforce the regulations formerly issued—without any distinction of persons. For our own part we shall feel ourselves under no further restraint, should the rule be registered, of which we entertain no doubt, any more than we should do in the case of an additional legal check on the abuse of any moral inclination—and we regard it as the mildest possible means of preventing the continuance of those attempts to bring the "Government of this Country as by law established into contempt and hatred," to which we have invariably opposed ourselves."

Now having heard the man, who boasts of his British feelings, and British ideas, and British sentiments, but, with an open front, advocates the necessity of enslaving the Press—the Palladium of British Liberty; we cannot avoid reiterating the sentiments which fell from the lips of a truly British Nobleman, not in the land of freedom, but on the subjugated shores of India: and we have reason to expect that, ere long, these will be repeated and lauded in the most August Assembly of Britons in England, while the advocates of adverse opinions will be ex-

ecrated; and their names will be mentioned, only to be handed down to posterity with unqualified indignation. We conclude with the extract alluded to, from the *memorable Speech* of the Marquess of Hastings:—

"Further, IT IS SALUTARY FOR SUPREME AUTHORITY, EVEN WHEN ITS INTENTIONS ARE MOST PURE, TO LOOK TO THE CONTROL OF PUBLIC SCRUTINY. While conscious of rectitude, that authority can lose nothing of its strength by its exposure to general comment. On the contrary, it acquires incalculable addition of force.

"THAT GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NOTHING TO DISGUISE, WIELDS THE MOST POWERFUL INSTRUMENT THAT CAN PERTAIN TO SOVEREIGN RULE. IT CARRIES WITH IT THE UNITED RELIANCE AND EFFORT OF THE WHOLE MASS OF THE GOVERNED: AND LET THE TRIUMPH OF OUR BELOVED COUNTRY, IN ITS AWFUL CONTEST WITH TYRANT-RIDDEN FRANCE, SPEAK THE VALUE OF A SPIRIT TO BE FOUND ONLY IN MEN ACCUSTOMED TO INDULGE AND EXPRESS THEIR HONEST SENTIMENTS."

Prevention of a Suttie.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Among the many instances of the immolation of Hindoo Widows, with the bodies of their deceased Husbands, brought to public notice through the medium of the *CALCUTTA JOURNAL*, I believe, very few, indeed, have been prevented from taking place by the presence and exertions of Europeans, who are for humanity's sake so much interested in the entire abolition of this cruel and dreadful roasting system, at which human nature shudders. I shall therefore take the liberty, through the same useful channel, of giving a plain statement of facts, regarding the prevention of a Suttie, which was to have taken place, on the 10th instant, at the small village of Buja, about three and a half miles distant from the post of Kotgarh: but for the timely presence of a single European, (the writer of this) who was the means of obviating it.

On the evening of the 9th instant, a report was circulated in this neighbourhood, that the widow of a Zameendar of the Konait cast, in consequence of the demise of her husband the preceding day, had come to the resolution of sacrificing herself on the funeral pile, the day following about noon, which she was deterred from carrying into effect earlier, owing to the badness of the weather. By mere accident, the circumstance came to my knowledge, and as occurrences of this nature are rare to the best of my information, though they do occasionally come to pass in this quarter; and having never had an opportunity of being present at one of these inhuman offerings, of a deluded, degraded, and a religiously immoral people, I was firmly resolved on being an eye witness of the ceremony, in the faint though uncertain hope, that an European spectator might prove serviceable to the devoted victim when the dreadful moment arrived.

With this view, early after breakfast on the 10th, I repaired to the spot on foot as quickly as possible, lest the sacrifice should take place earlier than was given out, accompanied by some of my servants and a good many other people, some of whom were of the Rajpoot cast. On my arrival at the village, which I found to be half a mile and upwards, beyond the spot where the funeral pile was to be erected, I saw several hundred people—men, women, and children, who had assembled from the surrounding villages, far and near, to witness the Tamashee, as they called it, of a human being burnt to ashes; and I immediately sent a person to inform the intended victim of a superstitious and barbarous religion, that I wished to see and speak with her. Soon after moving forward a little, I observed her dancing, apparently in tolerable though assumed spirits to the music of drums and trumpets, in the midst of a crowded circle of women, close to which the corpse of her husband was lying on a pall covered, and wrapped up with various

silks. On my approaching her, the music ceased, and I addressed her and the assembled multitude, in the following terms:—I asked her, if she intended to ascend the flaming pile of her deceased partner in life; she unhesitatingly replied, that she did; and that the time for the ceremony had arrived. I then explained to her, that self-destruction was the worst of acts, and a heinous crime in the sight of the Supreme Ruler of the universe: that if she did not at once retract her vow, she would in a very short time rashly force herself into the presence of her Maker. To all which she answered with composure, that it was her own free will, having no family or near relations, she could not survive her husband and would follow him: and having bathed the corpse according to custom, she could not now return to her dwelling; but must destroy herself as other females of her family had done before her, or be considered in the light of an out-cast the remainder of her life. She then inquired over and over again if she did not burn herself, how she could, deprived as she was of her husband, alone manage to earn a subsistence for her future support? To this, I immediately replied, that I would willingly provide her during life with every necessary she might stand in need of. I spoke to several of the people (actors in the ceremony) near me, regarding her fate, and they told me they could not take upon themselves to interfere in the matter.

I left her for a few minutes, but before doing so, thinking. I perceived from her manners and actions, some symptoms of wavering; arising, as I supposed, from what she often repeated, about a provision for her future life, in the event of retracting the rash step she was on the point of committing. I again readily and more anxiously approached her, reiterating my entreaties with more force, using every argument in my power, and offering over and over again to support her for life. After a considerable time had been spent in this manner, I plainly saw, she began to listen more attentively, to what I urged in dissuading her from the dreadful crime of self-immolation; and being ably seconded in this good work by several of the Hindoos who accompanied me, and by others who, (to their honor let it be said), to my joy and surprise, instantly stepped forward, supported my arguments, unsolicited, in a manner I little expected, and reasoned with the woman to comply with my wishes. Upon which soon after she gave a tacit assent: the corpse was conveyed forthwith to the pile, the assembled multitude dispersed, disappointed at the result of my humble endeavours, and I had the inexpressible satisfaction of being holding at a distance (for I was determined not to leave the spot where I had taken my stand till the ceremony of burning the body of the deceased had terminated, lest the widow who had taken her seat near me, should again consent and follow the procession, which was preceded by drums and trumpets) the flaming pile which consumed to ashes the remains of her late husband.

At the period of my arrival, the woman was decked out in her best attire for the occasion of her exit from this world, dancing and singing a doleful and melancholy song to rude noisy and discordant instruments, in which last, many others of the women present joined. She appeared perfectly sensible and composed. She is between 40 and 50 years of age, and now appears happy and contented at having been timely rescued from the worst of deaths through the humble exertions and persuasive means adopted by a single European.

In sending these particulars for publication, instrumental as I have been in preserving the life of a Poor and destitute Hindoo Widow, I take no credit to myself; I do so more in the hope that others of our nation, similarly situated and prompted by humanity will never allow of an occurrence of this nature to happen without using their best and every endeavour for its prevention. On leaving this place, I did so with the firm determination of rendering the intended victim every assistance in my power; but I little expected that persuasive arguments alone would have terminated so favourably as they have done in this instance and first attempt of a single individual.

Some of the people assembled were much disappointed, especially the Brahmans, who assist on all such occasions; an in-

terested, a discontented and vile set of wretches, who though they live on the fat of the land, are always dissatisfied, and one or two others who expected to benefit by her untimely destruction; however the majority expressed themselves in a very different manner; in a manner that surprised me not a little, considering that the population of these hills with the exception of a few scattered Mohomedan families, consists entirely of Hindoos.

It is worthy of remark in this instance, that the deceased husband died two days previous to that on which the performance of this horrible sacrifice was to have taken place; and this being the case, is it not contrary to the customs observed by the Hindoos? As far as my knowledge extends, it is a gross violation of Hindooism; for on the demise of any of them, whether of a high or low cast, no food should be eat or water drunk by any of the family or relations of the deceased person till his body has either been consumed by the flames, buried or thrown into a river.

I am perfectly convinced from what I know of the character of the mountaineers, after a few years' residence among them, (many of whom even of the better sort express their detestation and deprecate this inhuman custom) that a single word from our enlightened Government would put a final stop to the practice throughout the whole of the hill dependencies. Why I should like to know, cannot the Burning of Widows be prevented by an order equally as well as the atrocious crime of Female Infanticide, once so prevalent in these mountains and at Sagur? and it still continues in its full vigour in the protected Seikh States, where it is as notorious as that of the Immolation of Widows in various parts near the seat of the Supreme Government. This species of crime is also common among all Rajpoots, who assign as a reason for burying their infant female children as soon as born, the great expence and difficulty attending a suitable marriage of that high, proud and warlike people. The thoughts of future dishonor to any of their females, drives them to despair and to commit the most cruel and unheard of acts on that portion of the human species, which it is incumbent on and the duty of man to rear with that care and attention which the frailty of the sex requires.

Let it be here mentioned to the honor of an individual, that he was the means of preventing a similar sacrifice at Soobathoe some months ago. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances to state them, but I understand that after the woman had actually set out for the pile, he induced her to return.

In conclusion, I may further add for the information of others, that of three instances of Suttees which were about to take place to my knowledge, in these mountains, and at which Europeans were present, at all events aware of, two of them have been obviated; which is an example to many interested in the abolition of the custom that should not be passed over in silence.

Your obedient Servant,

Kotgurh, December 12, 1822.

P—G—.

P. S.—Since the above was written, two other Suttees were about to take place at Kotgurh: both Widows, who were in an advanced state of pregnancy, wished to destroy themselves with their deceased husbands; but I rejoice to say, that the Natives, for the sake of their infant families, considering their intentions nothing less than murder, over-ruled their wishes, and in one of them absolutely used force for its prevention. This being the case, may I ask any of your numerous Correspondents whether compulsory measures would not be justifiable on like occasions? for had these deluded women been allowed to follow their own inclinations, four instead of two human beings would have suffered the cruellest of deaths.

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Wednesday, March 19, 1823.

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Blabbers Condemned.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

When you have a spare corner in your valuable JOURNAL, you will oblige me by inserting the following remarks, taken from one of the numbers of the RAMBLER.

Your obedient Servant,
S—.

And let not wine or anger wrest,
Th' intrusted secret from your breast.—FRANCIS.

It is related by Quintus Curtius, that the Persians always conceived an invincible contempt of a man, who had violated the laws of secrecy; for they thought, that, however he might be deficient in the qualities requisite to actual excellence, the negative virtues at least were in his power; and though he perhaps could not speak well if he was to try, it was still easy for him not to speak. In these latter ages, though the old animosity against a Prattler is still retained, it appears wholly to have lost its effect upon the conduct of mankind; for secrets are so seldom kept, that it may with some reason be doubted, whether the quality of retention be so generally bestowed, and whether a secret has not some subtle volatility, by which it escapes, imperceptibly at the smallest vent, or some power of fermentation, by which it expands itself so as to trust the heart that will not give it way.

The vanity of being known to be trusted with a secret, is generally one of the chief motives to disclose it; for however absurd it may be thought to boast an honor by an act which shews it was conferred without merit; yet most men seem rather inclined to confess the want of virtue than of importance, and more willingly shew their influence, though at the expence of their probity, than glide through life with no other pleasure, than the private consciousness of fidelity; which while it is preserved, must be without praise, except from the single person who tries and knows it.

When the discovery of secrets is under consideration, there is always a distinction carefully to be made, between our own and those of another; those of which we are fully masters, as they affect only our own interest, and those which are reposed with us in trust, and involve the happiness or convenience of such as we have no right to expose to hazard. To tell our own secrets is generally folly, but that folly is without guilt; to communicate those, with which we are entrusted is always treachery, and treachery for the most part combined with folly.

The confidence which CAIUS has of the faithfulness of TITUS is nothing more than an opinion, which himself cannot know to be true, and which CLAUDIUS, who first tells his secret to CAIUS, may know to be false; and therefore the trust is transferred by CAIUS, if he reveal what has been told him, to one from whom the person originally concerned would have withheld it; and whatever may be the event, CAIUS has hazarded the happiness of his friend, without necessity and without permission; and has put that trust in the hand of fortune, which was given only to virtue.

All the arguments upon which a man who is telling the private affairs of another may ground his confidence of security, he must upon reflection know to be uncertain because he finds them without effect upon himself. When he is imagining that TITUS will be cautious, from a regard to his interest, his reputation, or his duty, he ought to reflect, that he is himself at that instant acting in opposition to all these reasons; and revealing what interest, reputation, and duty, direct him to conceal.

Every one feels that in his own case, he should consider the man incapable of trust, who believed himself, at liberty to tell whatever he knew to the first when he should conclude deserving of his confidence; therefore CAIUS on admitting TITUS to the affairs imparted only to himself, must know that he violates his faith, since he acts contrary to the intentions of CLAUDIUS, to whom that faith was given.

For promises of friendship are, like all others, useless and vain, unless they are made in some known sense, adjusted and acknowledged by both parties.

The rules therefore that I shall propose concerning secrecy and from which I think it not safe to deviate without long and exact deliberation, are, never to solicit the knowledge of a secret, nor willingly nor without any limitation to accept such confidence when it is offered. When a secret is once admitted, to consider the trust as of a very high nature, important as society, and sacred as truth; and therefore not to be violated for any incidental convenience, or slight appearance of contrary fitness.

Poison of Serpents.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

A circumstance occurred not very long ago, that has caused some surprise in the narrow circle of my family, and respecting which I should be glad if some of your intelligent Correspondents would give me some information. The case is this, a child belonging to a servant of the family was lately bit by a Snake; the pain I can easily believe was excessive, as the little girl was writhing in agonies; the distress of the mother can be better imagined than expressed, nor will I attempt the last. After a few moments consideration, this truly tender parent little mindful of what the consequence might be, applied her mouth, and sucked the venom from the wound; this gave an almost instantaneous relief to the child, but I was in dread for the life of the mother, and endeavoured to prevail on her to take an emetic; this however she refused, and no argument could induce her to do any thing more than to rinse her mouth with a little warm water.

Now, Sir, I am not sufficiently an adept in Natural History to pronounce the Snake a venomous one, though several persons who have seen it declare that it is; be that as it may, the child's wound is fast healing, and the mother is as well as ever. This has led me to imagine that the Poison of Serpents if taken inwardly has perhaps not the same effect as if infused into the blood. I have a confused recollection of having some where read that some Animal Poisons if taken inwardly have no effect: amongst these were I think the matter of the Cow and Small-Pock, and if I remember right it also included Syphilitic Virus. Again we see that Milk if taken internally is highly nutritious and wholesome, but a very small quantity injected into a vein would cause inevitable death, unless the limb were immediately amputated. The same argument holds good with the blood of animals, swallow it, and it will do no harm, but inject a little of it into a vein and death is likely to follow, why then might not the same be the case with the Venom of Snakes.

This Sir is a question which I should be glad to have elucidated; I fear my mode of expressing myself with respect to the poisons of animals may not be strictly technical, but this I hope your professional readers will make allowances for, and obligingly instruct.

Your obedient Servant.

JUVENIS.

PRICE OF BULLION.

Spanish Dollars,	Sicca Rupees	206	4	a	206	8	per 100
Doubloons,		30	8	a	31	8	each
Joes, or Pezas,		17	8	a	17	12	each
Dutch Ducats,		4	4	a	4	12	each
Louis D'Ors,		8	4	a	8	8	each
Silver 5 Franc pieces,		190	4	a	190	8	per 100
Star Pagodas,		3	6½	a	3	7	6 each
Sovereigns,		10	12	a	11	0	
Bank of England Notes,		9	8	a	10	0	

Brath.

At Fort Marlborough, on the 15th of November last, Conductor JOSEPH BOARDMAN, of the Ordnance Commissariat Department.

Note to Correspondents.

We recommend J. J. B. to represent his case to the Sheriff; as we have been informed every disposition exists in that quarter to redress grievances; which being the case, he may thus attain his object more readily, than by laying his Letter before the Public.

Monthly Religious Lectures.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

I am happy to inform the Christian Society of Calcutta, that the Ministers of the two dissenting denominations, having considered the recent rise of Christianity in Calcutta; and from that circumstance, the necessity of giving to their Congregations a full display of the Truths of the Gospel, that they may be furnished with a reason of the "hope that is within them," and be able to silence objections, and meet the attacks of Infidelity and Superstition, have resolved to preach a Monthly Lectures,—by which they hope systematically and clearly to define the grand truths of Revelation; so that persons who may not be familiar with the theological productions of Europe, and America, will avail themselves of such an opportunity to store their minds with divine truth, and kindle, at the Altar of Inspiration, the sacred fire of true religion. The Third Lecture will be given this evening the 19th of March, at the Union Chapel, by the Reverend James Hill. Subject: "The Church of God is a real blessing to the world."

Your obedient Servant,

J. J.

Superintending Surgeons.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

Much has been written by GRYPHUS PEST P. Q. and U. about the rank of Superintending Surgeons. You have only to refer to the orders of the Sister Presidency (Madras), where you will find a case in point, and no doubt the Powers that rule here, will see the justice of the measure.

When Dr. Berry became the Senior Surgeon, and first for promotion to Superintending Surgeon, he held the appointment of Medical Store-Keeper, a situation far more lucrative than that held by the present stumbling block.—Every effort was made, and all the interest of his Uncle, Dr. Anderson, and Friends exerted, to get him passed over, so as to enable him to remain in practice at the Presidency; but the Government very properly opposed it, and he was consequently, very much against his own inclination, promoted to the rank of Superintending Surgeon, in General Orders.

Dr. Berry had such powerful interest through his Friends with the Government, that he was shortly after elevated to a seat in the Medical Board, to the prejudice of a Medical Officer (Dr. Watson) Senior to himself, and possessing stronger claims to promotion. Upon this, Dr. Watson sent in a very spirited and manly Memorial to Government, which not meeting with any attention, Dr. W. forwarded another through Government, to the Court of Directors, who forthwith ordered the Government to restore him to his proper Rank and situation in the Board; and that he should receive the difference of Salary in arrears.

I am told that Superintending Surgeon Dr. Roger Keys, formerly and for a long time a Presidency Surgeon, and in much practice, would have given many years allowances of his present Rank, to have been allowed to pass over his Promotion.

I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

March 17, 1823.

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA, THIS-DAY.

	R. S.	H.	M.
Morning	8	22	
Evening	9	46	

Inland Navigation.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

As I observe you are desirous of retaining all the old Correspondents of the JOURNAL, I take the opportunity of calling your attention to the present state of the Inland Navigation of India.

It was observed by Burke, twenty years ago, that no nation in the world had done so little for their Colonies, or Dependent States, as England has done for India; and the remark made twenty years ago, applies at the present day, with redoubled force. My present subject, however, shall be confined to the Inland Navigation of this country; a subject that yields to none in importance, when we consider the extent of the Commerce of this country, conducted as it is, entirely by a water communication from the mouths of the Ganges, to the remotest parts of India; and contributing as it does, to the prosperity comfort, and happiness of Millions of our fellow creatures.

Let us take a review of the present state of the Rivers of India: the principal route to all our Stations and to those marts from whence all our commerce flows; being the Ganges until she falls into the Baghrutty, and in continuation to the Hooghly on to Calcutta: it is well known, that in many parts for 3 or 4 months in the year, this track is wholly impassable for boats of burden, and in many places even for budgrows, or pinnaces; the only way left, therefore, is by a circuitous and dangerous route, via the Sunderbonds. Have these things existed long? have any measures been pursued to remedy this evil? will there ever be a safe and certain inland navigation for India? are questions, I naturally ask, and these forcibly occurred to me on passing Augher-deep on the Baghrutty about a week ago. At that place, the River makes a circuit of about 8 miles, and brings you round almost to the same place you set out from; and not 200 yards from the spot; if a nullah or channel were cut through this small track of land, it would shorten the journey by half a day at least, and as this I have no doubt is the case in many other places, a vast deal would be saved in a great distance.

It is most mortifying to reflect how much behind hand we are in improvements to our European brethren. Look also at America; look at her Inland Navigation. Steam Ships of 6 and 700 tons sail weekly from the mouth of the Ohio to the Mississippi in 10 days, a distance of 2000 miles, and there is not a part of American Inland Navigation, but what can be traversed by Steam Vessels, at all times of the year, and at little or no expence.

Why, Sir, have we not Steam vessels then in India? is the Navigation of our Rivers uncertain and dangerous for those Engines? Let them be remedied; or if that is not possible, why could not canals be formed as well as in other countries? they at least would render the Navigation, certain, and safe, at all times of the year. I would have one Grand Canal from Calcutta to Meerut or Delhi, cut in as strait a line, as would be possible, to keep as near the line of our Stations, as the nature of the Country could admit of. We have excellent Engineers in this Country, we have plenty of hands to execute such a project, and we have money to carry it through! What then should prevent our Rulers from commencing a work that would gratify and conciliate our Native Subjects, give confidence to our Merchants, and be a source of comfort and joy to the Traveller, and every Member of the Service, both Civil and Military?

I am, Sir, Your's most obediently,

March 10, 1823, near Jungypore.

A TRAVELLER.

P. S. The weather is very cold at present and has been for the last five or six days: we had two north-westers with heavy rain, on the 27th and 28th ultimo, and rains almost daily since. The Indigo and Mulberry Plants look uncommonly well about these parts, and every thing seems favorable at present to these Crops.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

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Australian Pipes,

OR

STATE OF THE PRESS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Readers of the JOURNAL will recollect, that on the 10th of July last, this Paper contained a Report of the Trial of William Bland, under the head of "AUSTRALIAN PIPES, or Libels in New South Wales." It was thus introduced by our transmitted Predecessor, whose remarks on that occasion, as usual, very pertinent and just, are worthy of attention at the present conjuncture :-

"The following Trial for Libels in New South Wales, though not of very recent date, is worthy of republication here, where it has not before appeared in print.—It will shew what are the sort of Libels that are likely to be circulated where there is no Free Press, and what are the consequences of shutting up the "vent and safety valve" of public opinion.—Such severe remarks would never find their way to the public eye in a country where the Press was really Free; because the responsibility of the Publisher would be a sufficient check to prevent their publication, and writers would content themselves with more moderate strictures; but where the Press is fettered, whether by a Censorship or more powerful chain, OTHER means will be sought to give vent to the feelings of the disappointed; and these will be the more violent and unguarded, in proportion to the clandestine manner in which they are issued to the world. Hence these "Australian Pipes," as they are ludicrously termed from being scattered about in the public roads in the form of pipes, or rolled up like Native Letters in this country. Let any one for a moment consider, which is preferable, the open and unrestrained publication of opinion in a Public Print, conducted under a responsibility to Law, by a known Editor and Publisher, or the having the Calcutta Course occasionally strewed with these "Flowers of Libel" as they may well be called, without a possibility of detecting the Author or Distributor, and risking the probable Punishment of the Innocent instead of the Guilty. Yet such is one of the consequences of restraining the Press by any other than the obvious means of a responsibility to Law.

"This singular case here republished, will shew our Indian Readers also, that even in New South Wales, the land of "rogues and vagabonds," for whom the MILLENNARIAN Reformer would have Arbitrary Power instead of Law, a Trial of some sort is substituted for Summary Banishment; though, if there ever were a community in which that power ought to exist, whether from "the incongruous nature of its population" or its "distance from the mother country," it would be there, where these circumstances are so remarkably united.

This JOURNAL being circulated in most quarters of the globe, its influence in exposing the pernicious effects of tyranny, and of illegal and barbarous restraints upon the human mind, is not unfelt even in New South Wales. Even there the little Deputy Despots in the exercise of delegated power, smart under its lash, as is evident from the following Advertisement, inserted in the SYDNEY GAZETTE of the 13th of December last.

Advertisement.—There appearing in the CALCUTTA JOURNAL of July last, the Statement of a Trial (Rex v. Bland) of the latter end of the year 1818; the undersigned deems it incumbent on him, in justice to all to whom it in any way relates, to explain that this Statement, with Exception of the Evidence, Remarks on the Evidence, and Defence, was written entirely from Memory, two Months at least subsequently to the actual Trial; that it is therefore unavoidably, in some parts, neither sufficiently full nor precise, to be satisfactorily just as a paper for general Perusal; and that from this Consideration, exclusive of some hasty Expressions that it involves, although originally intended for Publication, it had, on after thought, been suppressed; and now appears without either his previous Knowledge, or much less Concurrence.

Sidney, Dec. 12, 1822.

WILLIAM BLAND.

We know not whether Mr. Bland has been since created a Clerk of Australian Stationary, or what may be the latent cause of these new blandishments to official power; but there can be no doubt of his having been compelled by the influence of the authorities to publish this apologetic advertisement. With all his zeal to please his new friends, however, he does not and cannot deny that the Report, as formerly published, is substantially correct; and the justness of Mr. Buckingham's reasoning is unshaken. Should the measures now in progress receive the force of law, the Inhabitants of Calcutta may soon see the Free Press they have hitherto enjoyed, and which has for years been their glorious

distinction among their Asiatic Neighbours,—debased into "Indian Pipes," and this now happy country placed on a level with the "land of Convicts, Thieves and Pick-pockets."

We subjoin an extract of a Letter lately received from the same quarter, which further illustrates the real condition of our Southern fellow-subjects; and the public ought to study the picture attentively, so far as regards the state of the Press; since it may soon be our own, with this difference, that while they are advancing in civil and political improvement, we are retrograding into barbarism and debasement.

"There is, I understand, a vessel about to sail for Bengal, by way of Batavia, which gives an opportunity of replying to your letter introductory of Captain ***** That Officer has lately been married in this country, which may have been one of the reasons of his not favouring us with a visit here, though I gave him a pressing invitation in Sydney; and I will of course be very happy to attend to your introductions on all occasions.

"The Indians here, myself excepted (as our longer residence and more numerous dealings with the people here enable us to appreciate them better) seem to be much led away by plausible people. Apparently every art has been used to estrange them from both of us.

"It is not a cursory visit to this country that will enable a person to form a tolerable idea even of the real state of things: the actual baseness both of the government and the people, especially of the former. Of course, after detecting the phenomenon, it is a further task to discriminate the causes and discern the proper remedies.

"In my opinion the grand specific is light. The deoxydising rays of the intellectual sun-beam are required. In short, till we have a Free Press, deeds of darkness will be committed with impunity, and low cunning will be considered wisdom.

"From the file of our Local Newspaper since the 17th May, you will perceive that some approach to Liberty of the Press has already taken place; but the possession of it must be very precarious until there exist a Press under private instead of public control. This I expect will be the case shortly, perhaps in a few months.

"The Dollar discussion will be obscure to you, on account of the disputants either neglecting, or not daring, to insert some local facts necessary for the full understanding of the matter. I have hitherto taken no share in it, at least directly, but intend sending some articles by and bye.

"Our Commissary is a man of the strictest integrity against whom ceaseless attacks are made, often encouraged by the Government. I cannot by this opportunity enter on particulars.

"You will see in the Paper of the 3d August, the Petition and Reply. On the one hand the Petitioners assert, contrary to the fact, that their incomes had been depreciated 20 per cent. By what? By the substitution of whole dollars for pierced dollars and bank notes; and on the other, His Excellency (Sir Thomas Brisbane) lays the whole blame of the depreciations on an even issue of Bank Notes convertible into cash at the pleasure of the holder! The argument he uses, you will feel to come to yourself, and to prove the Bengal circulation to be depreciated; for Dollars, on an average of years sell lower in London than in Calcutta. This is called for and, I must conclude."

CALCUTTA BAZAR RATES, MARCH 10, 1823.

	BUY	SELL
Remittable Loans,	Rs. 30 8	29 8
Unremittable ditto,	8 0	7 0
Bills of Exchange on the Court of Directors, for } 18 Months, dated 30th of April 1822,	26 0	25 0
Bank Shares,	6200 0	6000 0
Spanish Dollars, per 100,	207 0	206 0
Notes of Good Houses, for 6 Months, bearing Interest, at 5 per cent.		
Government Bills, Discount,	at 3-8 per cent.	
Loans on Deposit of Company's Paper, for 1 to 3 months, at 3-8 per cent.		

Extracts from an Officer's Journal.

MALWAH.

Malwah, according to the Ayeen Akbery, is 245 coss in length, and 230 in breadth. Under the joint dominion of the Paishwa, Scindia and Holcar, this fine Province, for many years, suffered every possible misery and oppression.

The operations in 1817 and 1818, against the Pindarries, and the result of the Battle at Mahidpore, placed a great portion of it under the protection of the British Government, and it is now beginning to recover from the wretched state to which the inroads of merciless Freebooters, and the tyranny and oppression of its Rulers had reduced it.

The face of the Country is rugged and broken into long stony ridges, presenting a barren unpromising appearance; but the lands or vallies between these ridges, are rich, generally watered by numerous rivulets and springs, and amply repay the labour of the cultivator. Many large fertile tracts are, however, lying waste, overgrown with grass and jungle, the haunts of tigers and beasts of prey; this chiefly arises from a paucity of inhabitants, and consequent want of hands, and many years must elapse before this Province will cease to exhibit marks of the desolation resulting from the oppression and plunder to which it was so long exposed.

The climate is temperate, never experiencing the extremes of heat or cold; and during the rainy months, cloth garments are necessary in the day, and blankets at night—it is well adapted to the vegetables and fruits of Europe, which here attain the highest perfection.

The grains principally cultivated in the high land of Malwah, are of the coarser kinds, which compose the crop usually termed Khureef. The sugar-cane and poppy claiming the chief care of the husbandman.

The opium, which is produced in great quantities, and forms the chief export of the Province, is generally considered inferior to the Patna or Benares opium. The Inhabitants of Malwah and the neighbouring Countries, look upon it as a necessary of life, and great quantities find an outlet without passing, as I believe it ought to do, through the hands of Government. It is said, a method has been discovered by an Officer of the Bengal Establishment, employed in the Province, by which a much greater quantity of this drug is procured from the poppy than by the process now used by the Natives.

The principal Rivers are the Nerbudda, Sepra and Colysind, unfortunately for the Trade of Malwah, not one of these is navigable. The Nerbudda, the River most likely to have proved beneficial, was carefully examined under the orders of Sir John Malcom; but the falls and rapids were so numerous, that all idea of reaping any benefit from its navigation was abandoned. All these Rivers are liable to sudden rise in the rainy season, and frequently overflow to the great injury of the Towns and Villages on their banks.

The rains usually commence in June and continue with great violence until the end of September. In these months, intermittent fevers are very common; and the mortality and sickness among Europeans very great: exposure in the Jungles during September, October and part of November, generally proves fatal to Europeans and often to Natives of Hindoostan, and Troops should never march unless in cases of emergency before the early part of December; but except in the months above alluded to, Malwah may be considered as healthy as any other part of India.

The vegetation throughout the Province is quick and luxuriant, and the grass with which it abounds is of a very nutritive nature. It has a peculiar aromatic flavor, different from any other grass I have ever met with: an oil is extracted from it celebrated for its virtue in rheumatism and hurts from bruises or sprains; and it is said to be superior in this respect to the kayaputy oil brought to Calcutta from the Eastward.

The black cattle are numerous and very fine, fully equal to those bred in Hansi or Harianah. The climate is well suited to the breeding of Horses; and the abundance of luxuriant forage, with the extensive tracts lying waste and unoccupied, seem to point out Malwah, as an eligible situation for a branch of the Stud Department, particularly as the Bursat, hy, that pest of the Stud in Hindostan, is unknown in Malwah. The Inhabitants are quiet inoffensive, people, fully sensible of the evils from which they have been relieved by our occupation of the Country and the consequent change from anarchy to good government; and as our interference in the affairs of the Country, only extends to the protection of the Inhabitants from plunder and violence, leaving their Civil Institutions untouched, they view us without that prejudice too often excited by the introduction of our Courts and Forms of Justice.

The Chief men of the Country as well as the poor labourers look upon the English as their Protectors; they rely with confidence on our justice and humanity, for full and complete protection from outrage or plunder; the conduct of all the Officers of Government tends to increase and strengthen this feeling among the people of all ranks; and I am satisfied, that a sincere feeling of gratitude towards Sir John Malcolm, under whose superintendence the present system of management was introduced, will live for many generations among the Inhabitants of Malwah.

Note.—We tender our thanks to the Writer of the above Journal, and trust he will not fail to enable us to lay before the Public, as he has given us reason to hope, further extracts from the stores of useful information he has collected in the course of his wanderings.—Ed.

Carrier Pigeons.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

Some time ago I proposed the use of Pigeons for the conveyance of intelligence between Calcutta and Saugor. A few objections were made to it, to which I replied; but as it was not my intention to state any obstacles to the erection of Telegraphs, I did not say so much as I should otherwise have done; particularly as my plan was intended merely to enable those in Calcutta, to receive news from their friends outward bound. It is of general use and may be readily practised by any one who has room for a Pigeon house. Before stating the particular objections, I submit the following summary of the information which I have gleaned from Books and personal communications:

1. The Carrier Pigeon is distinguished by a thick membrane over the nostrils, generally warty, a naked circle round the eye, colour grey and tail terminated by black.—2. The letter may be tied to the leg or tail, fastened round the neck or under the wing.—3. It may be dipped in wax to preserve it from wet.—4. The bird's feet were sometimes bathed with vinegar, with a view to allay thirst and to prevent it from being tempted to alight to drink.—5. Not only different varieties of Pigeon have been used, but also birds of other families (genera). Pliny mentions *Swallows*.—6. The male birds were generally employed; but as Russell uses the terms *her* and *she*, it is likely that the female was sometimes used.—7. I have been told, they are not certain after two or three days; but this must relate to the spurious kinds taken when they have no eggs or young ones. Russell observes respecting the true Carrier, that it is apt to forget its family if absent longer than a fortnight.—8. They travel as far in one day as a man can go in six.—9. The Bagdad Pigeons were reckoned superior to those bred at any other place.—10. When news were to be conveyed to any very great distance, relays of them were kept ready.

Pigeons have not been used at ancient sieges, such as Muttina (Modena), as mentioned a former letter, but in modern times, since the invention of gunpowder. They did important service at the siege of Leyden in 1574. After the Spaniards had continued before this city for five months, the besieged were reduced to the last extremity, and on the point of surrendering, when

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they were informed by means of Pigeons, that relief was at hand. This revived their drooping spirits; they held out; and the siege was raised. The Pigeons were embalmed to commemorate this extraordinary event.

Latham informs us, that the Carrier Pigeon is much like the Persian or Turkish in colour; and remarkable for being extremely tuberculated about the eyes and bill, the irides scarlet, legs red. "Said to fly 26 miles in an hour. But Lithgow in his travels, mentions a Pigeon which exceeded this, as it went from Babylon to Aleppo, which is 30 days journey, in the space of 48 hours."

"It is recorded of a *Dragon Pigeon* which is a breed between the *Horsmen* and *Carrier*, that it flew from St. Edmondsbury to Bishopsgate street in two hours and a half, being 72 miles." The light Horseman is oftener made use of in England than the true Carrier, as that bird is too much esteemed to risk the loss of it on every trifling account."

Pigeons are now constantly carried on board the Steam Packets, from London to Margate and other places, for the purpose of conveying intelligence to the friends of the passengers of the progress of the vessels. I have been informed, that one bird flew from Reculver to London in 2 hours. I notice this circumstance; because the distance between these places, is at least equal to that from Calcutta to the extremity of Saugor or 60 miles in a direct line.

The same use of them will shortly be made here. A Steam Vessel is now building on the premises of Messrs. Kyd's at Kidderpore, and we may expect that she will be launched in the course of a month or six weeks.

The following objections have been made to the use of Pigeons by some of your Correspondents.—1. That carriers are never certain after 4 days.—2. That a message would not reach Kedgerie in less than 3 hours thro' 4 stations.—3. That it would be necessary to interchange a basket full of pease between these places every second day, and,—4. That Pigeons would be more expensive than a line of Telegraphs, that would support itself.

The three first, I conceive to have been sufficiently answered by what has been stated above and in former letters; but the greatest stress having been laid upon the expence of keeping the Pigeons, I shall add a little more upon that point.

On two former occasions I observed that the expence would be but trifling. I will now go a step further and assert, that they would cost nothing, and that an establishment of Pigeons will abundantly support itself. After they have served us as messengers as long as we please, we can kill them and eat them as a reward for their services. When made into pies they will gratify our palates, and perhaps give rise to pleasing reflections, by reminding us of those for whose welfare our anxiety has been relieved by means of their exertions.

If Pigeons should come as much into use as I expect; it may be worth the while of people, to keep shops full of them for the purpose of letting them out; as I believe was formerly done in Egypt.

Stillingerfleet gives the following translation of a passage in Biberg's *OECONOMIA NATURÆ*, published in the 2d Volume of the *AMENITATES ACADEMICÆ*:—

"If you suppose two Pigeons to hatch nine times a year, they may produce in four years 14,762 young," and corrects him by saying the number ought to be 14,760; because he includes the first pair.

Luindus reckons the total in four years at more than 18,000!

At the Bird-shops in the Chitpore-road may be seen many kinds of Pigeons, that called *Bagdar*, (which probably means Bagdad, as it is brought from Bussora), may be purchased for 6 rupees per pair, and the expence of keeping will be only eight

annas per month. If, as Buffon conjectures, the male of any kind would answer, the expence will be less; as most of them may be had for 3 annas per pair.

Pigeons breed several times a year, and come to their full growth in 6 months.

X.

Indian Recreations.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

The sameness that exists amongst us, is probably as well as exemplified in our evening drive, as in other places, and I have often thought of the immense fortune one would accumulate if he received a rupee from every turn the same individual take upon the course night after night. This practice of almost invariably taking the air in the same place, arises chiefly from the fact that there is scarcely any other road during the greater part of the year that is not covered with dust, which renders a passage over them particularly disagreeable. There are, however, several parts of the year, for instance the beginning of the rains and towards their close, as also those days following the fall of severe northwesterns, when the drives in the vicinity of Calcutta are particularly pleasant; strange to say, these are not even known to at least three-fourths of the British population; and I have heard even residents of ten years standing acknowledge their ignorance as to them. I should have thought that every opportunity the weather and climate afforded, would have been gladly seized upon, for escaping from the same daily drive; as, however, this is not the case, I suppose the assemblage of people, the variety of characters, vehicles, &c. the wish of being seen as also that of seeing others, has too many charms to be relinquished for the quiet solitary drive, at one time leading through groves of the towering cocoanut, and graceful bamboo; at another through extensive plains covered as far as the eye can reach, with verdure and cultivation; passing occasionally through a small cluster of huts, near to which is now seen resting from the toil of the day, the poor Hindoo ryot, with his simple instruments of husbandry lying beside him, whilst at a short distance, is seen the meagre bullock, with which he tills the ground. These scenes can have no gratification for minds eat up by the vanity of external show; no sources of pleasure are derivable to such, from objects so apparently insignificant in themselves, both which to the contemplative mind afford a wide scope for observation, pleasure and amusement. I do not mean to say, that no pleasure or information is attainable from a turn of the course; on the contrary, the reverse is the case with a stranger: the various fashionable carriages, the beauty of the horses, the number of well dressed ladies, some reclining "à la éléganté," in a sociable, landau, or what not; others managing with the skill of a njmrod, horses noted for their superior breed and high mettle; and others again, restraining the fiery temper of the beautiful curriole pair, whilst the numerous assemblage of horsemen mounted on horses of every description, from the high mettled races to the country Nag, all serve to render the scene highly interesting to him. But to those like myself, who have been in the habit of seeing the same repeatedly for the last eight or nine years, it is dull, monotonous, and stupid; which the occasional appearance of a new beauty or the overheard twitter of a love dialogue, between the beau on his horse, and the Miss in her carriage, serve little to enliven it.

The good old English custom of walking is, I observe, totally banished, and the new promenade by the side of the course is thereby of no service. I should therefore recommend its being appropriated for the horsemen, and some of the turf gentlemen might be requested to prepare it for that purpose. The old argument, then, of which part of the course belongs to the horsemen, and which to the coachmen, would thus be stopped, and we should not then hear of the accidents which now so often occur.

Your obedient Servant,

NEMO.

Native Newspapers.

We learn by a letter from Delhi, dated the 21st of January, that Rajah Runjeet Sing being displeased with his mother-in-law, took possession of her Territories, and confined her. Five or seven days previous to the date of the letter, the Rajah had sent her several pieces of cloth and some jewels, which she refused to accept of; and this appears to have been the cause of his displeasure: he told his son Prince Tara Sing to prepare a boat for her, and desire her to go where she pleased.

The letter also states, that the Rajah had received a letter from the Commander of his forces in Peshour acquainting him that Dost Mahomed Khan, Vizier to the King of Cabool and Candahar, was laying an army at the former place for delivering Peshour. The Commander was ordered, in reply, to be in complete readiness, on his part, to meet the Vizier.—(*Shomachar Chundrica.*)

We understand, that while Rajah Runjeet Sing was at Lahore, the goldsmiths of the city complained to him, that the Daroga of the Jowahir Khana* had confined two of their craft, on suspicion of their having coined base rupees. The Rajah enquired of the Daroga respecting them, and was informed, that they had brought four or five false rupees to exchange, and as he heard that they coined false rupees, he had committed them to prison to ascertain the fact. On hearing this, the Rajah gave orders to search the houses of these goldsmiths; and on some base rupees being found, their estates were ordered to be confiscated; but the execution of the sentence was deferred until further orders.—(*Joma Johannomah.*)

* The house in which gems &c. are kept.

To the Editor of the *Shomachar Chundrica*.

SIR,

Letters on various subjects are published in your *CHUNDRICA*, some of which have already produced the desired effect, and others are most likely to meet with similar success; this encouraged me to write something about an inconvenience experienced lately in bathing at a Ghant.

Having been this morning at the Barra Bazar Ghant, I saw a number of *Khattas** and their children bathing there. Three or four of the boys got on board a boat, and each giving the Manjee, successively, a blow on the head, leaped into the water. The Manjee made use of harsh language on being beaten in this manner; whereupon the boys left paddling and began to throw water and mud upon the Manjee, which occasioned a great inconvenience to all those who were bathing. We therefore request of the proprietors of the Ghants, as they have built them for the benefit of the public, to keep one or two persons at the respective Ghants to prevent the outrages of the *Khattas*; which will be esteemed as a most virtuous act of theirs.—(*Khota, Dasta.*)

In Bullahore, near the old temple of Radha bullub Takoor, there was an old pukka Ghant, which being destroyed, Tonqomonie, the widow of Gour Sate of Calcutta, has built a new Ghant to the South of it; which is very spacious, strong and elegant. She has also made twelve temples suitable to the Ghant.—(*Shomachar Chundrica.*)

* A name given by the Bengallies to the Hindostannies.

CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Remittable,.....Premium (Holiday),.....	30	0	a	31	0
Non-Remittable, Certificates, 5 p. ct., ditto. ..	6	0	a	7	0

Commercial Reports.

Note.—It being difficult to quote with preciseness the prices of the following Articles, the mode of stating generally, whether they are at an advance or discount, has been adopted as being sufficient to give a tolerable correct idea of the Market.—The Exchange being at Par.

References.—(P. C.) Prime Cost of the Article as Invoiced at the Manufacturer's prices, exclusive of Freight and Charges.—(A.) Advance on the same.—(D.) Discount.

Broad Cloth, fine,	5	a	0	per cent. A
Broad Cloth, coarse,.....P. C.	0	a	0	per cent. D
Flannels,	5	a	0	per cent. A
Hats, Bicknell's.....	20	a	25	per cent. A
Chintz,	0	a	0	per cent. A
Cutlery, Table,	5	a	10	per cent. A
Earthen-ware,	10	a	15	per cent. A
Glass-ware,	0	a	5	per cent. A
Window Glass,	0	a	10	per cent. D
Hosiery,	0	a	6	per cent. D
Muslins, assorted,	20	a	25	per cent. A
Oilman's Stores,	15	a	20	per cent. A
Stationery,.....P. C.	0	a	8	per cent. A

Advertisement Extraordinary.

(From a Periodical Paper published in Canton.)

I Achew Tea Chinchew, a lineal descendant of Coup Boi Roche Chinchew, the celebrated Sculptor and Carver in wood, who through his unremitting studies to promote rational religious worship, by the classical touches of his knife and chisel, has been honored by Emperors, Kings and Rajahs of the East, and supplied them with superior Idols, for public and domestic worship, now, humbly offer my services in the same Theological line; having travelled from hence at considerable expence, to perfect myself in Anatomy, and in copying the most graceful attitudes of the human figure under those able masters, Nollkens and Bacon. Achew Tea Chinchew, is now in possession of Casts from the most approved models and Elgin marbles, he is ready to execute to order, Idols, from twelve feet in height, (well proportioned), down to the size of a Marmozette Monkey or to the most hideous Monster, that can be conceived necessary to inspire awe or reverence for religion; and the Pious Pastors of the different castes. My charges are moderate:—For an Urane Otang three feet high, 700 Dollars, ditto Rampant, 800, a Sohinx, 400, a Bull (with Horns and Horns) 650, a Buffalo, 800, a Dog, 200, ditto Couchant, 150, and an Ass (in a Braying attitude) 850. The most durable materials will be used. Statuary, Granite, Brass and Copper, I have provided sufficient to complete orders to any extent.

Perishable Wood, shall never disgrace a Deity made by my hands. Posterity may see the objects of their father's devotion, unshallied by the inclemencies of the seasons, the embraces of pious Pilgrims or their tears after solemn prostrations before them. For small Idols for domestic worship, or made into portable compass for Pilgrims, the price will be proportioned to the size and weight. Any order post paid, accompanied by a drawing and description of the Idol, will be promptly attended to provided, that one half of the expence be first paid, and the remainder, secured by any respectable Morcantile-house in Canton.—*Hurkaru.*

Shipping Arrivals.

BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Feb. 22	Sophia	British	Waddington	Bomborah	Jan. 12
23	H. M. St. Sophie	British	G. French	Persian Gulph	—
24	Toopee	Arab	Hussan Coote	Penang	Dec. 19

Shipping Departures.

MADRAS.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
March 1	David Clark	British	P. Falconer	Calcutta
2	Catherine	British	W. Knox	London

BOMBAY.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Feb. 22	Elizabeth	British	D. Robertson	Muscat
23	Zenobie	French	J. Preckzoor	Mahe

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 17, 1823.

At Diamond Harbour.—CONDE DO RIO PARDO, (P.), CATHERINE, EXMOUTH, and BRITANNIA, inward-bound, remain.—RE-OLUTION, (P.), outward-bound, remains.

Saugor.—DAVID SCOTT, LORD WELLINGTON, (P.), EAST INDIAN and ISABELLA, gone to Sea, on the 16th instant.

The FRANCES WARDEN, arrived off Salt Golah, on Monday, the 17th instant.

The Brig McCauley, and the INDIAN OAK, arrived off Gilmore's Ghaut, on Monday, the 17th instant.

Marriages.

On the 15th instant, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Reverend J. PARSON, Mr. JOHN RUTHERFORD AITKEN, of the Upper Military Orphan School, Kidderpore, to HENRIETTA, eldest Daughter of the late Mr. HARRISON, Head Master of the Lower Military Orphan School.

At Madras, on the 3d instant, at St. George's Church, S. NICHOLLS, Esq. of the Civil Service, to Miss MINGHIN.

Birth.

At Cottagum, on the 18th ultimo, ANN AMELIA, the Wife of Mr. HENRY HAMILTON, of the Travancore Mission, of a Son.